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Bye Bye Birdies
Yankees win AL crown
It's all in the
WORLD OF SPORT
TODAY

Cabinet:
Rethink
Brodet
proposals

DAVID HARRIS

THE cabinet voted to reexamine the proposals of the Brodet Committee to tax interest on short- and mid-term savings during a marathon session, which lasted into early yesterday morning. The vote was 7-4 with one abstention. The vote came after two meetings of ministers and a private debate between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Dan Meridor, who brought the recommendations to the cabinet. It is understood that prior to their two-and-a-half-hour discussion, a majority of ministers had expressed full support for the Brodet report. However, in the final vote, ministers expressed their concern about the proposal to tax short- and mid-term savings, and gave Treasury Director-General David Brodet, Netanyahu's economic adviser Moshe Leon, and a representative of the Bank of Israel two weeks to formulate alternate proposals. When the vote was finally taken, only seven ministers were present. Those voting in favor were Netanyahu, Tzahi Hanegbi, Natan Sharansky, and Eli Yishai, with Meridor and Ze'ev Begin, voting to accept the report in full. Immigration and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein abstained. An additional five ministers voted in absentia, David Levy, Yitzhak Mordechai, and Eli Suissa voting with Netanyahu, while Moshe Katsav and Rafael Eitan supported Meridor. Both Brodet and committee colleague Prof. Amir Barnea have warned that removing this section of the recommendations would be "a mistake." Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, one of the most vocal opponents of the proposal to tax savings, said he was "very happy" with the outcome of the debate. Michal Yudelman adds: The Histadrut came out strongly against the government's adoption of the Brodet Committee's recommendations. Directors of pension funds warned that the government's decision will hurt women and young and middle-aged workers, whose pensions will be reduced. Histadrut Chairman MK Amir Peretz demanded that negotiations be opened with the government over the implementation of the recommendations, warning that the Histadrut will battle for the workers' pension rights. Full Story, Page 8



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and President Ezer Weizman review an honor guard at Itihadiya Presidential Palace yesterday. (Reuters)

Weizman says his visit has improved ties with Egypt

BATSHEVA TSUR
CAIRO

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman returned from Cairo yesterday evening bearing a message from President Hosni Mubarak to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, amid indications that the bad feelings between Cairo and Jerusalem had been patched up. Weizman refused to reveal the contents of the message, pending talks with Netanyahu. But he told reporters on the return flight that he had achieved his aim of improving the atmosphere. Although the two presidents conferred tete-a-tete for 90 minutes - touching on a wide range of bilateral and regional issues - they were joined over lunch by most of Egypt's leading ministers, including the prime minister, foreign minister, and defense minister. The presence of such a battery of Egyptian leaders was a clear indication that the chemistry between Weizman and Mubarak had succeeded in breaking the ice which has characterized ties over the past

few months, government officials said. "The meeting was the message," as one official put it. But the message went beyond that. Weizman told reporters he had clarified the point that, just as Israel was forced to accept Yasser Arafat as chairman of the PA, Netanyahu would have to be accepted as Israel's elected leader. Mubarak, for his part, noted that he had been reassured that the government would stick to its commitments. "He assured me they will honor and implement all the agreements," Mubarak told a press conference attended by many dozens of media representatives, including a large number from the Arab world. Asked if he is still upset with Netanyahu, Mubarak replied: "It's not a matter of being upset. [Our

purpose] is to discuss how to push the process forward to achieve a comprehensive agreement." Israeli officials later expressed satisfaction over this intention. To impress upon the Egyptians the extent to which the talks with the Palestinians are moving forward, Weizman's director-general, Arye Shumer, hooked up US mediator Dennis Ross with Mubarak's adviser Osama Baz during the presidential talks. Ross reportedly conveyed that an agreement is close. "It's clear that the Hebron redeployment has to take place," Weizman said, touching on a bone of contention Mubarak mentioned in his opening remarks to the press. Mubarak reiterated that he would be willing to meet with Netanyahu after the redeployment. At least two concrete achievements came out of the talks. First, the Egyptians agreed to immedi-

ately renew the search for Israelis missing in action since the Yom Kippur War. Presidential adjutant Brig.-Gen. Shimon Hefetz will be in touch with Cairo today to discuss details, Weizman said. The search was called off about a year ago, following reports that Egyptian POWs had been killed by IDF soldiers during the 1956 Sinai campaign. Secondly, Egypt agreed to speed up the granting of visas to Israelis. This is expected to facilitate both tourism and trade. Some 300 Israelis have signed up for the economic conference next month in Cairo, and the new arrangement is expected to increase the number. Both presidents also agreed to keep the lines of communication open. Weizman stressed that there could be no movement in the peace process without Egypt. Some observers said this put Egypt back in a pivotal position, after Mubarak refused to attend the recent Washington summit.

Egypt rolls out red carpet for Weizman

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK
BATSHEVA TSUR

TWO Egyptian soldiers stood atop the roof of the terminal at Cairo Airport yesterday morning, as President Ezer Weizman's air force plane touched down. Below, numerous Egyptian flags waved in a gentle breeze, and one Cairo resident remarked that it was the first day in months that the weather was pleasant. As Weizman stepped onto the red carpet where Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was waiting to greet him, the soldiers stretched their arms out, suddenly revealing an Israeli flag and the presidential banner. After the handshake, they symbolically folded the flags until Weizman's departure. But if the intention was to keep Weizman's visit as inconspicuous as possible, it was foiled by the Arabic media. The recent tensions in the area, fanned by hostile remarks in the Egyptian press, had the opposite effect. A group of Cairo newspaper editors cancelled a scheduled meeting with Weizman, but the local and world media turned up in droves to cover the joint press conference. Security was frenetic. Journalists were rushed into buses to join the presidential

motorcade, which stopped all traffic between the airport and the sumptuous Al Itihadiya Palace where the talks were held. One bus, rushing to keep up, sideswiped a truck, but fortunately no one was hurt. Smart, white-uniformed guards, interspersed with plainclothes security men, lined the entire route, forming a virtual human chain. The trees on the boulevards were in blossom, and somehow it looked like it might be spring. Weizman, who normally spends most of a plane trip chatting with the media, had spent the short flight in his seat after a brief "good morning" greeting. He was clearly tense. As the leaders conferred inside the palace, Egyptian journalists waiting outside spoke of the atmosphere. More than one fingered Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu as "the bad guy," reportedly after receiving an official briefing. Others spoke of their fears of ministers Ariel Sharon and Ze'ev Binyamin Begin.

"How would Israelis feel if Egypt had a new government which said, 'Now we are going to renegotiate the peace process...?' " asked Khaled Daoud, a reporter for Al Ahran. He said Egyptians are hoping the US will renew pressure on Israel after next month's elections. "About 50 percent of the Israeli population doesn't even have a feeling for the Palestinians' plight," he added. Israeli Embassy spokesman Lior Ben-Dor said that most Egyptians are more moderate when speaking privately. "They can concede a point, understand us, privately." After lunch, the two presidents met the press. By this stage, their body language had changed. Mubarak reached out to hold Weizman's arm. They smiled and joked. "We had excellent fish," Weizman told the media. "There was no shrimp," Mubarak quipped. "Don't get me into trouble with the rabbinite," Weizman retorted. But the Arabic media were hostile to Weizman. They vied with the Israelis for the microphone and won. They made sharp accu-

(Continued on Page 2)

Hanegbi hopes DNA testing will solve mystery of missing Yemenite children

JUDY SIEGEL

BLOOD samples will be taken from 1,000 parents and other close relatives of Yemenite children who allegedly disappeared during the early years of the state. Health Minister Tzahi Hanegbi decided yesterday. The DNA "fingerprints" of the families will be compared with those from bones in 10 graves that have been identified as those of Yemenite children. Health Ministry Director-

General Gabi Barabash will supervise the project, which will be carried out by Dr. Yehuda Hiss, director of the Forensic Institute for Medicine at Abu Kabir, and a professor from Sheba Hospital. Hanegbi decided that small bits of bone would be taken from 10 graves chosen as a sample. He announced his plans in a meeting with Rosh

Ha'ayin Mayor Yigal Yosef and lawyer Rami Tzuberi, one of the leaders in the effort to find out what happened to the missing children. Activists claim the children were taken from their parents and adopted by veteran Israelis. The parents, they said, were told the babies had died in hospitals. The DNA matching campaign, said Hanegbi, is an important effort to assess the truth of these claims.

Dow hits 6,000

AT the closing bell on the New York Stock Exchange, the Dow-Jones index of 30 blue-chip stocks was up 40.62 at 6,010.00. The milestone was passed less than a year after clearing 5,000. Wall Street Report, Page 9

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Key Hebron issue still unresolved

Hussein making first visit to territories since '67

DAVID MAKOVSKY and JON IMMANUEL

ISRAEL and the Palestinian Authority negotiators still differ on whether the IDF will be allowed to enter Hebron-controlled parts of Hebron known as H1, senior sources said last night. Officials in the Prime Minister's Office insist that the issue, considered the most sensitive in the talks, is not just whether Israel is permitted to enter H1 - which comprises 80 percent of Hebron - in hot pursuit after terrorists, but also about whether the IDF can enter the PA-controlled parts of Hebron if Israel suspects an attack is about to occur. Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said last night that Israel was seeking to "reopen" the agreement, a charge Israel rejects. It remained unclear last night whether negotiations would convene in Taba today, or if informal talks would continue in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. US officials believe progress is most likely when small groups of negotiators meet informally, leading some to believe that the formal talks in Taba may bog down. Given the complexity of the toughest issues, one source close to the negotiations said the talks on these points were "moving slowly." Another source close to the negotiations said the "gaps are wide." By contrast, Foreign Minister David Levy said from the Knesset podium yesterday he believed a deal could be struck within a "few days," but gave no evidence to back this up. Meanwhile, Jordan's King Hussein will travel to Jericho today with PA leader Yasser Arafat for his first visit to the territories since the Six Day War. "King Hussein is returning to Jericho with Arafat where they will hold a meeting on Tuesday," a PLO official told Reuters. There was speculation that Hussein's trip was designed as a public gesture to Arafat, in keeping with Hussein's backing of the Palestinian leader at the recent Washington summit. Moreover, sources believe such a public demonstration of solidarity would protect Hussein's Palestinian flank at home.

Last night, US special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross flew to Amman, where he held talks with Arafat, who visited Hussein yesterday. Ross is seeking to find ways to bridge the gaps between the Israeli and Palestinian positions. Regarding the disagreements over the hot pursuit issue, Erekat told Channel 1 last night, "The problem is that Mr. Netanyahu insists on opening the agreement. He wants, for instance, the right of Israeli troops to re-enter Hebron or hot pursuit, and that is a total knockout to the agreement." However, Israeli officials believe the right of the IDF to take preventive action, let alone hot pursuit, is also within the parameters of the Oslo 2 accord. Annex I, Article XII, 3a, suggests that the IDF is within its right to act if it can work "at preventing or terminating such an act or incident or apprehending the perpetrators." A Palestinian source close to the negotiators said yesterday that he thought that the question of hot pursuit might be resolved if Israel agreed that they would only enter Palestinian-controlled areas of Hebron with Palestinian Police, and that Palestinian Police would have the same right to enter the 15% of Hebron which will be under Israeli security control. To make such coordination efficient the Palestinians are willing to establish a special command post in which IDF soldiers and Palestinian policemen will be ready to move together quickly, and to increase the number of joint mobile units. The source said much of the confusion over the level of progress made has been caused by the decision to split the talks into three channels, the civilian, security and the overall steering committee. Erekat's statement did not necessarily imply that there was no progress on other issues, only that there was no progress on the major issue. Palestinian negotiator Hassan Asfour denied that there had been progress on anything. "There is no progress. There is (Continued on Page 2)

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Government handily defeats no-confidence motion

THE Knesset yesterday defeated a no-confidence motion on the political situation 55-49. The two Moleket MKs abstained. The motion marked MK David Liba's swan song in the Knesset and he went out in style, blasting the government in a speech that resounded around the plenum. "We have no confidence in [Binyamin Netanyahu], his policies, his decision-making process; or his judgment. He is unrealistic. He has no culture of democratic rule. He does not have a peace policy. Half the country fears the possibility of bloodshed and terrible war. Instead of making the Arabs our partners, he has united the Moslem countries against us. Instead of cultivating mutual respect, trust, and

dialogue, his policy rouses a feeling of humiliation and hatred," Liba said. When Liba left the podium, he was greeted warmly by his colleagues, who were aware that his resignation comes into force today. Foreign Minister David Levy, on the other hand, met with severe heckling throughout his speech. He returned fire saying the opposition had acted irresponsibly and should have supported the government for continuing with the agreements even though it did not like them. "Instead of strengthening us, they have attacked us from all sides," Levy said. He said it is unfair to portray the government

as making no progress, but said the government is also committed to ensuring the safety of Hebron residents and would not blindly continue the policies of its predecessor. Nonetheless, he also said the end of the talks is imminent, a matter of days. Levy also related to a decision taken in the Labor faction to submit a no-confidence motion on economic issues every week. "I suggest you back down from the idea, because what you left behind was scorched earth," Levy said. Avraham Shohat (Labor) submitted a no-confidence motion on the handling of the Brodet Committee report and what he called the undermining of the country's economic standing in the world.

Grapes of Wrath panel probes civilian casualties

THE five-nation Operation Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee is to make on the spot inquiries into last Friday's incident in which 12 Lebanese civilians were wounded by mistakenly directed IDF artillery fire. The committee met yesterday at UNIFIL's headquarters at Nakoura after Lebanon submitted a complaint over the shooting. The IDF Spokesman said the committee did not conclude its deliberations and that "verification" visits would be made today and tomorrow in Israel and Lebanon. He said the aim of the visits is to help clarify the complaint, adding that the hearing yesterday was held in a practical and professional atmosphere. Lebanon, according to newspa-

per reports there, is pressing the committee to condemn Israel, while also making it clear that the understandings are aimed at protecting Lebanese civilians, as well as Israelis. The Lebanese government is also coming under increasingly intense pressure from Hizbullah, which warned again that it has not forsaken the Katyusha option as a means of retaliation. "The resistance has a responsibility to defend its people. We cannot be flexible on such an issue, whatever the price may be," Sheikh Nabih Kaouk, Hizbullah's chief in south Lebanon, was quoted as saying by the Lebanese press. According to Lebanese officials, who were also quoted in newspa-

per reports, the future of the monitoring committee and its ability to prevent any future cross-border fighting will depend on the outcome of the present discussions. Israel maintains that the shooting which resulted in the civilian casualties was an act of self-defense, after Hizbullah fired mortars from the outskirts of Safed al-Batikh, where the casualties occurred. Senior military sources said the IDF only responded after the mortar fire continued for more than 30 minutes and threatened the lives of soldiers. Fighting continued in the security zone yesterday, with Hizbullah mortar attacks against IDF and South Lebanese Army positions. There were no casualties, and IDF and SLA gunners returned fire.

Tichon wants list of Palestinian legislators to visit Knesset

KNESSET Speaker Dan Tichon is demanding a full list members of the Palestinian Legislative Council invited by the Hadash faction to visit the Knesset tomorrow, and their schedule, before authorizing the visit. Tichon met with Hadash MKs yesterday and complained that he had learned of the visit through the media, rather than directly from the faction. He noted Palestinian officials had visited the Knesset before, and even addressing committee members, but he said he would judge this case once he had the list. The main stumbling block is ensuring that the visitors are members of the legislative body, which was democratically elected, as opposed to the Palestinian National Council.

Hebron tour fails to change MKs' opinions

A TOUR of Hebron by nine MKs yesterday appeared to change few opinions, despite the fact that most said it was an eye-opener. The tour was arranged by Michael Kleiner (Likud) to give MKs who had not yet had a chance to learn about the situation from up close an opportunity to do so. The Jewish residents of Hebron showed the MKs several security problems they perceive in the agreement, such as the facts that the only road to the Jewish cemetery will be controlled by the Palestinian Authority, there is no separation at all between Jewish and Arab areas, and the PA will have civilian control over the city. Orit Struck, one of the residents, noted that this has far-reaching consequences: For instance, Israeli insurance will not cover the access roads, which means buses and food supply trucks might refuse to come. What appeared to make the greatest impression on the MKs, however, was their trip to Abu Sneh, a hill due to be aban-

doned by the army, from which a sniper would have a clear shot at visitors to the Machpela Cave or into the windows of Jewish homes. Both Kleiner and Yuri Stern (Yisrael Ba'aliya) said the visit strengthened their conviction that changes were needed in both the security and civilian sections of the agreement. "It is precisely those who advocate peace who should be the first to worry about security arrangements," Stern said. "[The lessons of the recent riots] necessitate reconsidering the previous government's decisions, precisely so that [the process] will continue. Otherwise, the whole thing will blow up within a short time." However, the left-wing MKs said the visit also strengthened their previous convictions. Yossi Katz (Labor), for instance, said the trip convinced him that no security arrangements could possibly protect the Jewish communi-

ty. The community's only hope is the goodwill of the PA, he said, and this could best be obtained by not demanding changes in the agreement. Walid Sadek (Meretz) said his main impression was that the Jews in Hebron are "fanatics who don't recognize the agreements and are willing to do anything to sabotage peace," and that therefore no arrangement in Hebron is possible without dismantling the Jewish settlement there. In other news, the National Religious Party Knesset faction decided to ask the party's central committee to hold a special session in Hebron sometime soon, to publicly show support for the Jewish community there. According to the faction, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has expressed willingness to attend. However, the faction also criticized the government's settlement policy, and demanded that the de facto freeze which has existed since the government took power be lifted.

Chirac to press for Gaza port

FRENCH President Jacques Chirac, who will be visiting here next Monday, will ask Israel to permit the Palestinians to develop a port in Gaza and allow more family reunifications, diplomatic sources quoted visiting French Foreign Ministry official Bertrand Dufourcq as saying yesterday. Dufourcq held separate talks during his one-day visit with Foreign Minister David Levy, Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Bentsur, and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's foreign policy adviser Dr. Dore Gold. He also had a very brief meeting with Netanyahu. He also sought to assure his hosts that France is not seeking to supplant the US role as Middle East mediator, but rather has its own specific ideas to offer, the sources said. Dufourcq also met with US special coordinator Dennis Ross. Israel opposes a French suggestion that the European Union decide later this month to name its own envoy to the Middle East. Today, Levy is expected to meet with all the EU ambassadors based here, provide his own overview of the region, and voice opposition to the idea of a European envoy. On a related issue, the sources said that Dufourcq did not seek to resolve the question of whether Foreign Minister Herve de Charette will visit Orient House during the Chirac visit, something which Israel rejects. Instead, Gold is supposed to solve this issue with a top aide in Chirac's office later this week.

Mordechai meets senior US officials

DEFENSE Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, visiting in Washington, said that according to reports he received from the government, there has been progress in the Israeli-Palestinian talks. During a visit to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, Mordechai told Israeli reporters that the peace process would benefit as the negotiations advance. The matter will be at the forefront of Mordechai's meeting this morning with Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Mordechai said. He is also scheduled to meet for the first time with Defense Secretary William Perry, prior to which Mordechai will be received at the Pentagon. Mordechai is also due to meet at the White House with National Security Adviser Anthony Lake. Hillel Kautler

MDA team saves 16-year-old's life

A Magen David Adom team from Tel Aviv yesterday saved a 16-year-old boy who collapsed from cardiac arrest while playing basketball in a Herzliya school. The team reached the school in three minutes and started intensive resuscitation, including heart massage. A mobile intensive care unit followed and continued the work. After half an hour, the youth's heart began beating again and he was rushed to Meir Hospital in Kfar Sava where he was in serious condition and unconscious. Judy Siegel

RED CARPET

(Continued from Page 1)

sations. Mubarak intervened, saying the Israelis should have a turn. The conference was to have been relayed live to Israel. Israel Radio had ordered a technician to do a satellite hook-up. But the technician had decided to go to the duty-free shop at Ben-Gurion Airport. He missed the president's plane, and reporter Yitzhak Feiler's broadcast could not be relayed. But the press conference clearly got exposure abroad, and the message ran out loud and clear. On the flight back, Weizman was his usual beaming self, patting cheeks and walking down the aisle during takeoff.



Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat kisses the forehead of Jordan's King Hussein after arriving at Amman's Raghdan Palace yesterday. (Reuters)

HEBRON (Continued from Page 1) nothing new. The differences are as great now as they were a week ago," he told The Jerusalem Post. Yesterday, government coordinator Maj.-Gen. Oren Shabor, who heads the Israeli civil affairs negotiating team, helicoptered into Hebron to meet with his Palestinian counterpart Jamil Tarifi for a field visit. The main civil problem is the extent of Israeli civil administration in the area under its security control. The Oslo Accords restrict Israeli civil control to the 400 "Israelis and their property" but

Israel wants to include property now lived in by Arabs to which Jews had title before 1929, when a massacre drove Jews from the city. Erekat was apparently referring to this demand when he said last weekend that "Israel wants to create two cities." Erekat and Asfour both said they saw no likelihood of an imminent Arafat meeting with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, but there was some speculation by Palestinian sources that Arafat would invite Netanyahu to Jericho to meet with him and Hussein, with the participation of Ross. The Prime Minister's Office said no invitation had been extended. Israel Radio reported last night. Arafat, brushing aside questions about a possible meeting with Netanyahu, said: "The most important thing is not the meeting...the most important thing is the implementation of what has been agreed."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two killed in road accidents
A man was killed yesterday afternoon when his car collided with a truck at the Pe'at Sadeh junction in Gush Katif. Another man was killed and a second moderately injured when a semitrailer collided with a car on the Ramallah bypass road near Beit El. (Itm)

Zvilli to Labor: Cut ties with French Likud leader
Labor Secretary-General MK Nissim Zvilli yesterday called on Labor's delegates and representatives in France to boycott and sever all relations with the Likud's president in France, Jacques Cooper. Zvilli's move came after Cooper's reference to mass-murderer Benuch Goldstein in the Yom Kippur memorial prayers, while omitting any mention of the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Zvilli noted that in the past people tended to overlook Cooper's utterances concerning Rabin's murder and his statements against the Labor government. But on this Yom Kippur he "crossed the line in choosing to include in the special prayer in memory of the dead the heartless murderer Goldstein, while not even mentioning Rabin's murder," he said. (Michal Yudelman)

Chief rabbis to visit Rachel's Tomb
The chief rabbis are to visit Rachel's Tomb today in what Religious Affairs Ministry officials hope will be a gesture which will encourage other Jewish pilgrims to visit the shrine on the outskirts of Bethlehem. The tomb marks the border between the area under the control of the IDF and that under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority. During the recent clashes between Palestinians and IDF troops, it was one of the points of confrontation. According to Oded Wiener, head of the Ministry's Holy Sites Authority, the tomb has been open to the public since Sunday, although relatively few worshippers visited it. (Haim Shapiro)

PA Police arrest Jihad activists in Bethlehem
Five Islamic Jihad activists have been arrested in Bethlehem, a Palestinian Police spokesman said last night. The spokesman said the arrests were made late Sunday night, but gave no details. The security forces had warned of the possibility of an Islamic Jihad attack yesterday, the anniversary of the slaying of Islamic

Netanyahu: Talks at 'sensitive stage'

LIAT COLLINS THE talks with the Palestinians have reached a "very sensitive" stage, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said yesterday in an impromptu press conference in the Knesset. He reportedly used the same phrase throughout his address to a closed meeting of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, his first to the committee since last month's rioting. He said he was not trying to evade responsibility for the decision to open the exit to the Hasmonaan Tunnel, but said the incident had been used as pretext for the rioting. He said there had been intelligence warnings about disturbances before the exit was opened. According to an official briefing, Netanyahu told the committee that the shooting of IDF soldiers was serious enough, but it was made more grave by the fact the number of weapons used exceeded the number of Palestinian policemen licensed to carry arms, and that these weapons should have been confiscated by the Palestinian Authority. He would not commit to a date for finishing the talks, and only repeated that they have reached a "sensitive stage." He said that after the Hebron issue has been solved, there are other controversial subjects that need addressing, including changing the Palestinian Covenant; confiscating the illegal weapons in the autonomous areas; and the extradition of Palestinian murderers. He said the government would maneuver within the existing agreements and not reopen them. Uzi Baram (Labor) Netanyahu, saying no other government had caused such havoc in such a short period. Netanyahu responded: "Even if the opposition does not support us, I don't expect it to adopt the position of the Palestinians." Ori Orr (Labor) said Netanyahu was using inaccurate numbers about the number of weapons in Palestinian hands. He said the premier claimed the Palestinian Police had received tens of thousands of weapons, whereas they had only received 8,200. Meretz leader Yossi Sarid attacked Netanyahu for not realizing the likely consequences of opening the tunnel, as did Ebad Barak (Labor), who said he should lead a coalition that happened to the government of Golda Meir and Menachem Begin, which both got bogged down in wars they did not want to anticipate. Netanyahu said he did not take the attacks on him by Arab countries personally. "Every time there's a new government, [especially] one that doesn't automatically make unilateral concessions but insists on reciprocity, there is a natural tendency in Arab quarters to try and place pressure on such a government. And that's very much the case in this incident as well."

Syria wants Arab, world action to deter Netanyahu

DAMASCUS (Reuters) - Syria's ruling coalition has accused Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu of endangering peace and security in the region and called for Arab and world action to force him to abandon his "hard-line" policies. "Netanyahu's policies are threatening both peace and security...the international community should move to put an end to this aggressive policy," the central leadership of the National Progressive Front said in a statement, following a meeting on Sunday night. The front, a coalition of parties led by the Baath party, said the meeting, chaired by Vice-President Zuhair Masharqa and attended by Foreign Minister Farouk Shara, renewed Syria's commitment to make peace with Israel. But it stressed that any settlement of the conflict should be based on the land-for-peace principle. "The meeting discussed the irresponsible policies of Netanyahu, which constitute a setback for the peace process, a rebellion against the principles on which the peace process was based, and a flagrant challenge to the Arab nation," the statement said. "Arab solidarity should be achieved to counter these current challenges," it added. The Syrian central leadership described Netanyahu's policies as "aggressive" and said he was "trying to undermine the peace process and to return it to the zero point."

We regret to announce the passing of our dear beloved **HARRY RIMER** formerly of Port Elizabeth. The funeral will take place today, Tuesday, October 15 at 3 p.m. at the Kfar Sava Cemetery. The bereaved family and friends. Shiva will take place at the Rimer family on Moshav Kfar Truman.

In sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother **DORA ZICHRONI** אשת ד"ר. The funeral will take place today, Tuesday, October 15, 1996. A bus will leave Nofim Towers for the cemetery at 1:00 p.m. (Tel. 02-6580222 for details) The Land and Blumberg families

הלואה מן האלוהים

No law blocking sale of transplant organ

INDIA Jan. 16 - Feb. 3

Court delays revealing identity of intermediary in wiretapping case

TEL AVIV Magistrate's Court Judge George Kara has granted the Tel Aviv District Attorney's Office an extra few days before submitting to the defense the name of the man who acted as the intermediary between state witness Ya'acov Tsur and the police and state attorney in the media wiretapping case.

Prosecutor Rafi Levy asked Kara to postpone lifting the confidentiality clause protecting the man's identity, pending a decision by the prosecution on what further steps to take, if any. Kara gave the district attorney's office until October 17 to present its plans.

Dan Avi-Yitzhak and Yehuda Weinstein, representing Ma'ariv publisher Ofer Nimrod, who is charged with 14 counts of commissioning wiretapping, suborning witnesses and disrupting a police investigation, last week asked Kara to lift the confidentiality clause, signed

by former Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal.

According to Avi-Yitzhak and Weinstein, the man's identity is relevant to the defense, apparently with the aim of proving that Tsur is an unreliable witness.

The district attorney's office has asked that the man's name not be revealed, because he is a businessman whose reputation could be damaged if he is connected to the case.

Avi-Yitzhak and Weinstein also asked Kara to lift confidentiality orders on conversations between Tsur and someone close to him, the name of a source close to him, the name of a person who tried to extract information from those involved in the case, the name of a police informer in the case and others, but Kara

rejected these requests.

The intermediary arranged for Tsur to speak with Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz, after Tsur had decided to turn state's witness. Hefetz, in turn, passed Tsur on to the then-head of the National Crimes Squad, Avi Cohen, and Tel Aviv District Attorney Miriam Rosenthal, who drafted the agreement with Tsur, in which the latter received \$200,000 and other favors in return for his evidence against Nimrod and others.

Because the defense lawyers of all those involved are still battling to receive relevant prosecution material, the trials have not yet begun, and thus Tsur has not yet testified 18 months after the agreement. Others implicated by him have still not been indicted in the complex case, which is expected to take years to resolve.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL Michael Ben-Yair has decided not to open a criminal investigation into haredi journalists and rabbis who have attacked the Supreme Court and its president, Aharon Barak, over the past two months.

Ben-Yair's decision refers mainly to articles published two months ago in the haredi papers *Hashava* and *Yated Ne'eman*, following the High Court of Justice's issuance of an injunction against the closure of Rehov Bar-Ilan on Shabbat, as well as to remarks made recently by Shas spiritual mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef.

The articles accused the court, and Barak in particular, of being

hostile to traditional Judaism; Yosef said Israeli courts are worse than those in non-Jewish countries.

Ben-Yair noted that he is in general reluctant to prosecute people for what they say, because of the importance of allowing freedom of expression. Furthermore, he said, taking legal action in such cases is likely to lead to one of two undesirable consequences: Either it will put a gag on people who hold such views, or it will focus even more attention on these views by giving the perpetrators a platform in court from which to expound their views.

"The proper arena in which to

discuss the attacks on the Supreme Court is the public forum, not the courts," he wrote.

The wave of public condemnations of the articles, from all sides of the political spectrum, was the best possible way to deal with the problem, Ben-Yair said. In contrast, legal action - especially against journalists or rabbis - is liable to deepen the alienation of the haredi community, he noted.

Regarding Yosef's remarks, Ben-Yair added that it would be very difficult to prove criminal intent, since his followers say the statements were meant only to encourage people to use the rabbinical courts.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Conference seeks freedom for Vanunu
"I am happy for revealing what I revealed." This message, signed Mordechai Vanunu, was read yesterday to the first local conference called to demand the release of the nuclear technician most Israelis still brand a traitor.

Actress Susannah York read the one line smuggled out of the prison where Vanunu has spent 10 years in solitary confinement.

Nobel peace laureate Joseph Rotblat, who worked with Robert Oppenheimer on the first atomic bomb, appealed to Israel to free Vanunu. He said Vanunu's 18-year sentence was out of proportion to his crime of giving details of Israel's nuclear program to the *London Sunday Times*.

EI AI cuts fares to Europe
Travelers who buy tickets to Europe this week will be able to cash in on an offer by EI AI which is the latest step in the ongoing airline price war.

It is offering a price of \$299 round-trip for night flights to Europe and \$349 for day flights. The catch is that the tickets, valid during November, must be ordered by Friday.

The destinations offered are Amsterdam, Paris, Zurich, and Rome. The EI AI deal undercuts earlier offers for some European destinations for \$333. EI AI also recently cut its trans-Atlantic fares, which now start at \$699 to New York.

Philatelists win honors in Turkey
Israeli philatelists made their best showing in decades at the international stamp exhibition Istanbul 96, which ended recently. Some 65 countries were represented, with 3,000 windows of stamp collections.

Twelve Israeli collectors attended. For the first time, an Israeli, Phoenix Insurance chairman Yossi Hachmi, won the top prize for his collection. A large gold medal was given to Moshe Shmueli, for his collection on classical Bulgaria, while two additional gold prizes to Yigal Netanel for his Japan theme collection, and to Yossi Hachmi for his on letters from the Holy Land. The Israeli philatelic journal *Sheval* won a bronze medal.

Tour guides to learn to deal with disabled
The first course for tour guides for groups with disabilities is to open this week under the auspices of the Association of Community Centers.

Participants are to learn to deal with tourists confined to wheelchairs, the blind and those with poor vision, the deaf, the retarded, children in special education classes, and the elderly.

Participants are to attend lectures by experts who deal with these populations and are to visit sites that have access for the disabled.

Man found dead in Tel Aviv
The body of a 65-year-old man was found yesterday afternoon in his apartment on Rehov Dizengoff in Tel Aviv.

A pathologist determined that he had been murdered several days ago. Police are investigating.

Sharansky meets Kasparov
Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky told world chess champion Garry Kasparov that chess had saved his sanity in the years he was a prisoner in the Soviet Union, to which Kasparov responded: "I've also retained my sanity thanks to the game."

The two met yesterday at Sharansky's office in the Knesset.

Sharansky said he feared losing to Kasparov at the match they're scheduled to play today, when the champion is expected to play 25 matches simultaneously.

Bezeq instituting new toll-free prefix
Starting in March, all 177 toll-free numbers will begin instead with the prefix 1-800. Bezeq said yesterday that it will also cancel the second group of digits, 022, and replace them and the subsequent numbers with a six-digit number.

Bezeq explained that it was making the change to "join the rest of the world, especially the US, where toll-free numbers begin with 1-800. European countries recently decided to adopt the same digits.

In addition, due to the growing demand for toll-free numbers, the 177-022... numbers did not allow for expansion. The new system will leave room for an additional million toll-free numbers.

No law blocking sale of transplant organs

JUDY SIEGEL

THERE is no law specifically barring the sale of transplant organs, either from a cadaver or from a live donor, the Health Ministry has disclosed.

The Kotev Committee, whose findings related to senior transplant surgeon Prof. Zaki Shapira were published Sunday, noted that organ transplants are carried out on the basis of regulations issued by the ministry. According to these instructions, only a first-degree living relative may donate a kidney to someone else, and then only after the hospital's Helsinki Committee on human medical experimentation approves it.

The committee added that this regulation is apparently "not carefully observed by our institutions."

The ministry surveyed a number of transplant centers in the US and Europe and found that 15 percent of them take kidneys from strangers, not only from close relatives. Most of these countries have strict laws or regulations that unequivocally bar the sale of organs.

Here, two-thirds of kidney transplants come from live donors; this is due to the shortage of people ready to will their organs after death. The accepted ratio in the Western world is 67% from cadavers and only 33% from living donors.

The Kotev Committee therefore recommended regulating donation of organs from the living, with coordination and control by the National Transplant Center, carrying out transplants only in public hospitals; checking the potential donor psychologically, medically, and socially; and requiring final approval by a committee which includes a public representative and a psychiatrist.

The committee, headed by Hadassah-University Hospital anesthesiology chief Prof. Shamai Kotev, had examined charges made by Ma'ariv against Shapira, who is head of kidney transplantation at the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus. He will be barred from performing kidney transplants from live donors until the attorney-general decides what to do about the case.

The paper charged Shapira with having transplanted kidneys that had been sold by Palestinians to wealthy Israelis and foreigners.

According to the committee findings, Shapira "cooperated with intermediaries that acted to find live kidney donors, and it is reasonable that these go-betweens did not do this for altruistic reasons."

Shapira admitted not sticking to ministry rules on checking potential donors' credentials, and explained that he did so in an "effort to promote transplants at any price."

The committee was "left with the sad impression that Prof. Shapira's behavior does not meet the ethical code required of people who deal in organ transplants."

The committee also criticized the behavior of the directors of Beilinson and the private Assuta and Herzliya Medical Centers, which were required to check whether they were involved as intermediaries in the sale of organs not involving first-degree relatives.



Yad Vashem chairman Avner Shalev (from left) joins Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara, Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, chairman of the International Council of Yad Vashem Dr. Josef Burg and other dignitaries in the singing of 'Hatikva' at the Conference on Holocaust and Education in Jerusalem last night.

PM: Holocaust education needed against deniers

THERE is no family in Israel that has not been directly or indirectly affected by the Holocaust, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said last night.

Speaking at Yad Vashem's Valley of the Communities, at the opening ceremony of the first International Conference on the Holocaust and Education, Netanyahu noted that his father-in-law was the sole survivor of a large family.

GREER FAY CASHMAN

Holocaust education is particularly vital now, he said, because the survivors are dying while the number of Holocaust deniers is increasing. It is important to disseminate the truth about the Holocaust, he stressed, adding that the governments of 17 countries knew in 1943 about what was happening in places like

Dachau and Birkenau and did nothing to prevent the atrocities.

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, in his address, cited several questions that continue to baffle Holocaust researchers, the most puzzling of which is how the Nazis succeeded in influencing cultured people and humanists to reach a consensus on the annihilation of the Jewish people.

Burg urges visiting women to stand up for their rights

ISRAELIS have believed for years they owe their lives to the brave Israeli male, forgetting that society is a partnership of all its members, Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg said yesterday.

"You are coming to a very macho society," the chairman told some 500 Jewish women from around the world here for the first International Lion of Judah Conference.

Burg related how he dealt with the problem that arose when his daughter Ronit said she wanted to read from the Torah on her bat mitzva. Knowing his father would object, he turned to his mentor, Prof. Yeshayahu Leibowitz, for advice.

"Your micro request is a macro

ESTHER HECHT

issue," Leibowitz told him. "The Jewish people is facing 50 percent assimilation. Jewish history is perceived subjectively as male history, in which the Jewish people functioned at 50 percent capacity. Can you imagine having 100 percent capacity?"

With this encouragement, Ronit negotiated the matter with her grandfather and she read from the Torah.

According to Halacha, modern woman is not an equal, Burg said. But there are other ways to interpret Jewish sources. Using another family anecdote in which the biblical Eve emerged as the source of "curiosity to explore what is

Nearly \$1m. spent probing Swiss accounts

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

JEWISH organizations, with a contribution from the Jewish Agency, have spent nearly \$1 million on the investigation of Jewish assets in Switzerland, authoritative sources said.

The cost, which includes the expense of combing archives for wartime documents, is reasonable because it ultimately could reap millions of dollars in the recovery of dormant Jewish assets, the sources said. However, others said the cash-strapped Jewish Agency should not help foot the bills.

The wartime documents, known as the Safe Haven collection, are not used to link bank accounts with specific individuals.

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Protestant inmates boost Ulster peace hopes

MARTIN COWLEY BELFAST

CONVICTED Protestant militiamen gave Northern Ireland's peace hopes a boost yesterday when they backed a shaky two-year-old truce and ruled out retaliation for an IRA bomb attack on a British army base a week ago.

The bombing by the Irish Republican Army was the first in the province in two years and rang alarm bells about a return to the 27-year pattern of retaliatory violence in which about 3,200 people have been killed. The IRA is committed to ending British rule in Northern Ireland.

believed the IRA and its Sinn Fein political wing were trying to provoke a Loyalist backlash and they decided they would not be sucked back into violence. "The prisoners recognize that Sinn Fein and the IRA are trying to provoke Loyalists into conflict," he said.

Clinton says his health is 'very good'

NEW YORK (Reuters) - President Bill Clinton, in his first interview about his health, told the *New York Times* he was in good shape and had never taken mood-altering drugs or had psychological counseling.

He also said that he sometimes does not hear comments in crowds because of a high-frequency hearing loss. The damage was apparently caused by hunting and loud music.

Clinton said his health is "very good" and said he had not been aware of repeated requests since 1992 for an interview about his health.

She said Clinton fights allergies with desensitization shots that he takes every week, a non-sedating anti-histamine and decongestant drug and an anti-inflammatory steroid nasal spray.



Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole waves at supporters while being introduced at a rally in Somerville, New Jersey, this week.

President's aides say GOP attacks on character issue will backfire

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (Reuters) - While reacting with dismay to Republican attacks on President Bill Clinton's character, the president's aides privately believe the strategy will backfire and doom any chance for rival Bob Dole to revive his campaign.

Clinton, in New Mexico to prepare for his final debate with Dole tomorrow night in San Diego, has adopted an above-the-fray attitude as vice presidential challenger Jack Kemp and House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich lead increasingly aggressive assaults on Clinton's ethics and character.

Clinton's aides privately believe the strategy will backfire and doom any chance for rival Bob Dole to revive his campaign.

Clinton's aides privately believe the strategy will backfire and doom any chance for rival Bob Dole to revive his campaign.

Pope to leave hospital today

ROME (AP) - Pope John Paul II will have his stitches out and return to the Vatican today to continue his convalescence from an appendectomy, doctors said.

Doctors said the surgery was needed because of intestinal problems that had brought on bouts of fever since December. The Vatican blamed the pope's weakened condition over the past months on an inflamed appendix.

Americans give more to charity, but growing numbers give nothing

WASHINGTON (AP) - Americans who gave to charity contributed an average of 10 percent more last year than in 1993, but more households gave nothing, a study says.

The average contribution per household was \$1,017, a rise of \$89 after the 1993 figure is adjusted to take inflation into account.

Sixty-nine percent of those surveyed reported that their households gave to charity last year - down from 73 percent who said they gave in 1993 and the lowest rate of giving in eight years.

Americans also expressed growing distrust over how charities use their money. The percentage who disagreed with the statement "most charitable organizations are honest and ethical in their use of funds" has increased from 20 percent in 1990 to 31 percent this year.

The study, the fifth of its kind since 1987, was based on face-to-face interviews by the Gallup Organization of 2,617 adults this spring.

Study: Pre-menstrual women run suicide risk

LONDON (Reuters) - Almost one in 10 sufferers of pre-menstrual syndrome (PMS) have tried to take their own lives, a 33 percent rise over the past 11 years, a British study to be released today said.

The survey by the Women's Nutritional Advisory Service (WNAS) showed that just over half had contemplated suicide at least once and more than three in four felt violent and aggressive in the 14 days leading up to their period.

British survey: Male smokers die earlier

LONDON (Reuters) - More than half of British men who start smoking in their teens and continue to smoke throughout their life will not live past 73, a major study on the effect of smoking said last week.

The 15-year study, funded by the British Heart Foundation and covering 7,735 men, showed that 78 percent of those who have never smoked are alive at 73 while only 42 percent of those who were smoking before they were 20 would survive to that age.

Managers complain of information overload, stress

HALF of all managers complain of "information overload" which increases already high levels of stress and can lead to ill health, an international survey showed yesterday.


The survey of 1,300 managers was conducted in Britain, the US, Australia, Singapore and Hong Kong.

It was commissioned from Britain's Benchmark Research by Reuters Business Information, part of international news and information organization Reuters Holdings Plc.

Time-wasting, delaying important business decisions, tension and in some cases illness can be traced to information overload.

Information Fatigue Syndrome is now part of an executive's life, working environment is extremely stress on a day-to-day basis.

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Iran, Iraq loom behind latest Kurd fighting

ZAKHO, Iraq (Reuters) - Anti-Baghdad Kurdish warlord Jalal Talabani won back more territory from a rival militia in northern Iraq yesterday in fighting that threatened to draw in bitter rivals Iran and Iraq.

"At the moment they are in control of all of Sulaimaniya province," Abdul Aziz Rajab, a spokesman for the pro-Baghdad Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), acknowledged.

He repeated accusations that Iranian forces were backing Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) fighters.

"They came in [to northern Iraq] supported by tanks and field artillery," he told Reuters in the Iraqi town of Zakho.

Officials from the pro-Baghdad KDP, meanwhile, stopped over in Turkey, bound for Washington in search of diplomatic backing against what the group says is an Iranian "invasion" of north Iraq.

"We will discuss that there," Sami Abdurrahman, a KDP leader, said before a meeting with Turkish officials.

Abdurrahman, Kurdish chief-tan Massoud Barzani's close aide, heads a delegation due to meet US officials in Washington tomorrow.

He said Iran had sent around 13,000 Revolutionary Guards, arms and ammunition into northern Iraq to spearhead the PUK drive. Tehran denies the charges.

The State Department called on the Kurdish groups to stop fighting and urged Baghdad and Tehran to stay on the sidelines.

"We are calling on both the PUK and the KDP to end the fighting," spokesman Nicholas Burns said. "We don't believe Kurdish interests will be promoted by a continuation of fighting between them."

"We hope both Iran and Iraq will stay out of the fighting," he added. The US has operated a "dual containment" policy against Tehran and Baghdad since the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war to ensure neither side gets the upper hand in regional disputes.

The Iraqi government appeared to have boosted its chances in the north in August when its forces helped erstwhile foe Barzani capture most of the rugged region in a lightning push.

Talabani struck back on Sunday, retaking Iraqi Kurdistan's biggest city, Sulaimaniya. UN sources said his guerrillas had since recaptured two main towns.

PUK rebels "seem to be advancing," one UN official told Reuters in Baghdad by telephone from the of Arbil. "They are in Degala and Koi Sanjaq. Fighting is continuing and both sides are using artillery and rocket launchers."

Talabani said his forces would not top the capture of Sulaimaniya with a push against Arbil, administrative capital of the predominantly-Kurdish north.

"We don't have a plan now to do that, because the city is surrounded by Iraqi tanks," he said in an interview with the London-based Arabic newspaper *al-Hayat*. Iranian officials denied any role in the latest fighting.

**ANWAR FARUQI
KABUL, Afghanistan**

TALIBAN soldiers were dug in along their shrinking frontline north of Kabul yesterday after losing two strategic towns to former government soldiers.

Taliban troops were driven from Jebul Siraj, the headquarters of former military chief Ahmed Shah Massoud, in what Kabul's new Taliban rulers were calling a "strategic retreat" to avoid bloodshed.

A Taliban spokesman in the Pakistani frontier city of Peshawar said about 4,000 Taliban fighters from elsewhere in Afghanistan are to be redeployed to Kabul.

Mullah Eid Mohammed Wahadyar said Kabul's new Taliban rulers would launch a counter attack against government troops once the reinforcements arrive, sometime in the next two days.

"I assure you that Massoud's forces cannot recapture Kabul," said Information Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi in Kabul.

"We want to fight with them where there are no civilians, for example around Baghram," military air base, about 50 kilometers north of Kabul, he said.

Truckloads of Taliban soldiers headed out of Kabul toward the frontline, north of the city. There was sporadic fighting on the outskirts, believed to be more of the hit-and-run attacks by former government troops.

The loss of Jebul Siraj, about 95 kilometers north of Kabul, is the first big setback for the Taliban army.

They no longer are within striking distance of the Panjshir Valley, a stronghold of the former government and are out of range of the

Taleban's Afghan foes cement gains, threaten Kabul



Islamic Taleban militiamen burn films in a bonfire in front of downtown Kabul's Zaynab cinema yesterday. The militia has banned music and television and imposed Islam Shariah law on the city.

strategic Salang Highway, controlled by northern warlord, Rashid Dostum.

The army of former Islamic seminarians also withdrew from Charikar, about 30 kilometers south of Jebul Siraj, putting former government soldiers in easy range of Baghram air force base. Muttaqi confirmed the loss of

both Jebul Siraj and Charikar to former government soldiers, but said the withdrawal was ordered by the Taliban administration to avoid a bloody showdown.

However civilians being treated in hospitals in Kabul say the fighting north of the capital has been intense. In recent days hospital officials say they have been receiving

about 30 wounded a day. Many of the wounded are suffering from shrapnel and gunshot wounds.

"The hospital is full," said Dr. Mohammed Qasim at Kabul's Karte Se hospital. "Before we would get the occasional mine accident, but now all we see are injuries from the fighting up north."

Since losing the capital of Kabul to the Taliban two weeks ago, former government soldiers have been using guerrilla-style attacks to stop their advance northward.

From Kabul's northern suburb of Khair Khana the relentless firing of heavy artillery could be heard as the battle raged just 15 kilometers away. (AP)

Belgian sex case investigator removed for alleged bias

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - Belgium's top court removed the magistrate leading enquiries into the country's child sex abuse and murder scandal from the case because he had a free dish of pasta from a group helping parents of missing children.

The ruling yesterday by the Cour de Cassation was greeted by howls of derision from some 700 protesters outside the court, and will further undermine public confidence in a legal system that has been reeling under repeated shocks in recent months.

"I am disgusted. I don't want to be Belgian anymore," one demonstrator told BRTN television. "There are tears in my eyes. I am ashamed," said another.

Virtually no one in Belgium wanted Jean-Marc Connerotte removed from the case, including the country's top prosecutor Eliane Liekendael, who reluctantly sought his removal from the case because he had breached the letter of the law.

Under Belgium's criminal law system, the investigating magistrate must be an impartial detective, building up a case file both for and

against prosecution. The public prosecutor then decides whether the case should go to trial.

"The decision was made, given that the impartiality of magistrates was a fundamental rule," President Oscar Stranard told a packed court as he announced the decision yesterday.

But Connerotte's removal seems certain to fuel conspiracy theories among Belgians of a cover-up attempt by people in high places touched by the paedophilia scandal.

Police have so far uncovered the bodies of four missing young girls and rescued two others who had been sexually abused. Thirteen people, including chief suspect and convicted rapist Marc Dutroux, have been arrested over the affair.

An emotional Paul Marchal, whose daughter An died at the hands of the Dutroux gang, said: "It is the beginning of the end... justice is dead."

Lawyers for Dutroux and businessman Michel Nihoul argued Connerotte had shown bias by attending a dinner arranged by the Marc et Corine parental support group, at which the two rescued victims of Dutroux were

also present.

"For 14 months they let Dutroux and Nihoul run free. This decision is like spitting on the tombs of Julie and Melissa," Gino Russo, the father of Melissa, told reporters.

Eight-year-olds Julie Lejeune and Melissa Russo disappeared in June 1995. Their bodies were found two months ago, entombed on a property owned by Dutroux. They had starved to death.

Parents of dead and missing children did, however, welcome the ruling that responsibility for the investigation will stay in Neufchateau under regional public prosecutor Michel Bourlet.

The Dutroux affair has transformed Connerotte, 48, recently married and with a daughter, from a virtual unknown into a national hero in just two months.

Connerotte and Bourlet are widely seen as the only honest investigators capable of bringing to a conclusion an affair which has shocked Belgians as much for the bungling work of some investigators as for the horror of the crimes themselves.

UN protests to Turks over killing of Cypriot

NICOSIA (Reuters) - UN peacekeepers in Cyprus protested to Turkish forces yesterday after the "deplorable" killing of a 58-year-old Greek Cypriot civilian who had crossed into the north of the divided island.

The sharp words from the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) followed the killing of Petros Kakouli on Sunday on the edge of the self-proclaimed Turkish Cypriot state. It raised to five - four Greek Cypriots and one Turkish Cypriot - the number of people killed along the buffer zone since June.

"UNFICYP is deeply concerned that once again an innocent life was lost as the result of the deplorable and unnecessary use of lethal force," the force said in a statement.

"The force commander of UNFICYP has, in the strongest possible terms, requested the commander of the Turkish forces in

Cyprus that he instruct the soldiers under his command not to shoot unless their own lives are threatened."

Turkey has 30,000 troops in the north of the island, where the Turkish Cypriots live.

Sir David Hannay, Britain's special representative on the Cyprus problem, added his condemnation of the killing of the retired fireman after a 90-minute meeting with Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides.

"Anything that can be done to make incidents like that less likely to happen would be thoroughly worthwhile," said Hannay, who arrived on Sunday night to continue efforts to end the 22-year-old division of the island.

Cypriot government spokesman Yiannakis Cassoulides called the killing "unwarranted, premeditated, carried out in cold

blood." Kakouli's body, which had been left where he fell for about four hours, was returned to the Greek Cypriot side yesterday. Relatives said he had been shot three times.

A post mortem revealed the fatal shot hit Kakouli in the chest. "I cannot say whether they were fired at close distance," pathologist Petros Vanezis told journalists. "The range is difficult to say. There is no gunshot wound directly on the skin," he said.

Another post mortem carried out by Turkish Cypriot doctors earlier found Kakouli had died of a single gunshot wound which punctured his lung and heart.

Turkish Cypriot officials said the man had gone 200 meters into the self-proclaimed Turkish Cypriot state, ignored three warnings to stop and was shot while trying to escape.

Report: Scientist discovers sign of life in second Mars meteorite

NEW YORK (AP) - A NASA scientist has discovered what may be signs of life in a second meteorite from Mars, CBS News reported.

Johnson Space Center researcher David McKay told *The CBS Evening News* last week that he spotted "possible cell structures, in at least one other meteorite."

McKay, other NASA scientists and university researchers first reported in August that chemical, microscopic and organic tests of tiny golden-colored bits of a meteorite suggest there must have been microscopic life on Mars some 3.6 billion years ago. The newest sign of life was found in a rock billions of years younger than the first. McKay said, noting that "Most of the lifetime of Mars is in this range between the two meteorites."

Austria blue-collar vote shifts to far right

VIENNA (Reuters) - Austria's far right won huge support from blue-collar voters in a European election and Chancellor Franz Vranitzky's Social Democrats should heed their worries rather than brush them aside, analysts said yesterday.

The triumphant nationalist Freedom Party scored an all-time high in Sunday's election, pushing its support to 27.6 percent, just a few thousand votes behind the Social Democrats who slumped to an historic low on 29.1 percent.

The message from voters was two-fold - they are angry at an austerity budget that has cut welfare benefits and raised taxes, largely to ensure Austria meets criteria set out in the Maastricht treaty for planned European economic integration

and a single currency. And the voters who backed the far right, many of them workers scared about their futures, are deeply worried that mounting job losses, and bankruptcies and takeovers will get worse as Austria integrates into the European Union.

"We have estimated that 50 percent of the blue-collar vote this time went to the Freedom Party," Rudolf Bretschneider, chief analyst at Vienna's Fessl research institute said.

"It is clear that skepticism over the EU has increased in Austria over the past two years," he told Reuters.

The fact that far-right leader Joerg Haider loses his Euro-skepticism with anti-immigrant invec-

tive makes his party's surge in popularity the more worrying, especially abroad, political analysts said.

The Social Democrats were complacent, believing they could always rely on the working class vote it has depended on for nearly 80 years, one analyst said.

But blue-collar support is leeching to the right, much as it did in Britain in 1979 when Margaret Thatcher won over voters traditionally loyal to the Labor Party, he said.

Vranitzky, a fiercely pro-European former banker, blamed his party's worst vote in Austrian democratic history on a low turnout, but said his government would press on with policies it knew were correct.

In prison reunion with mother, Chinese dissident claims innocence in coup plot

BEIJING (AP) - A former student leader in China's democracy movement told his mother Monday that charges that he plotted to overthrow the government were fabricated.

Wang Dan was held for 16 1/2 months before his family was told last week that he had been charged. His visit with his mother was the first time he had been allowed to see a family member since he was detained.

Wang said he had done nothing wrong, and the charges against him were groundless, the Hong Kong-based Information Center of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China said in a statement.

"Of course he has done nothing to violate Chinese law," his father, Wang Xian, said in an interview. He said his son was coughing often, and that the family was worried about his health.

Wang suffers from an inflamed prostate gland and other ailments, and is physically weak, the rights group said.

Wang was a Beijing University student who helped lead the demonstrations that swept Beijing in 1989. He was No. 1 on the government's most-wanted list after the military violently quelled the protests in Beijing in June of that year.

He was convicted of agitation against the government and served four years in prison. After he was released in 1993, Wang again worked for political reform. Police took him into detention last year after he organized the signing of a petition calling for freedom and tolerance.

Wang faces a minimum of 10 years in prison if convicted. In China's justice system, a guilty verdict is virtually assured before the trial begins.

Wang's mother and his lawyer discussed his defense case with

him, the rights group said. Last Thursday, the Beijing Municipal Intermediate Court gave Wang's family 24 hours to find a lawyer.

The trial was expected to be held soon. However, a court spokesman declined yesterday to say when it would start.

A New York-based group, Human Rights in China, citing

family members, said the charges against Wang accused him of publishing essays overseas criticizing the Chinese government; setting up an aid program for dissidents released from prison who could not find work; receiving loans and aid from abroad; and accepting an offer to study at the University of California in Berkeley.

Message found in bottle 82 years on

PETERHEAD, Scotland (Reuters) - Scottish trawlerman John Forman thought little of it when his boat dredged up an old bottle from the seabed - until he looked inside and found a note written more than 82 years ago.

Forman said last week that the bottle had been thrown into the sea in 1914 by scientists working for the Scottish Fishery Board as part of an experiment to chart currents around the British coast.

Forman found the bottle while towing a trawl net 50 km east of the Shetland Isles off the northern coast of Scotland. Inside was a yellowing card offering a one pound reward to whoever returned the bottle so scientists could use its position to work out which way the tidal streams flow in the North Sea.

Forman said he would be claiming the money.

Algerian president: Country to 'decide its future' in vote

PARIS (Reuters) - Algerian President Liamine Zeroual announced yesterday that a referendum to change the constitution to ban political parties based on religion, and confirm Islam as Algeria's state religion, would be held on November 28.

He made the statement in a speech broadcast on state-run Algerian television.

Zeroual's 30-minute address, a rare nationwide broadcast by the former general, followed a week's upsurge of violence in the North African country in which at least 60 people were killed and more than 70 wounded.

"Once again and through your vote in the referendum on November 28 you are called to

underline our national future," Zeroual said, referring back to Algeria's first multi-candidate presidential election last November.

For that election, Algeria mobilized at least 100,000 security force members to protect the near 13 million electorate against threats of death and disruption issued by armed Moslem guerrillas.

"Your answer is your choice in the search to develop a multi-party democracy with unity and with stability," Zeroual said.

The president, flanked by the national flag, repeated a promise that a general election would be held in the first half of next year.

He also recalled the main points that would figure on the voting

paper. These were that Islam, the Arabic language, the Berber language and identity were the heritage of all Algerians and must be kept out of politics.

"By your vote on this you will put an end to any maneuvers to undermine national unity," he said.

The move to ban the use of religion as a political weapon had long been expected after nearly five years of conflict between security forces and Moslem fundamentalists in which at least 50,000 people have died.

The violence broke out shortly after the authorities in January 1992 canceled a general election in which Islamic fundamentalists had taken a commanding lead.

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A taxing victory

IN winning the marathon struggle in the cabinet on Sunday night and ordering a reexamination — which will probably mean rejection — of a major element of the Brodet Committee's recommendations, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu succeeded in imposing his authority at the expense of that of Finance Minister Dan Meridor. Coming a fortnight before the Knesset discusses the government's sweeping NIS 4.9 billion budget cuts for 1997, this victory will only bear fruit if Netanyahu can restore a proper working relationship with Meridor.

The Brodet Committee members, backed by Meridor, tried to present their recommendations on reforming the capital markets as a take-it-or-leave-it package deal, which the government had to accept or reject in its entirety. Netanyahu correctly resisted the pressure implicit in such a presentation; the government, which bears responsibility for economic decisions, has the right and duty to scrutinize recommendations on an item-by-item basis. However, Netanyahu did this at the cost of alienating Meridor, whom he still needs to lead the government's economic program.

The cabinet vote focused on the committee's recommendation to tax short-term savings plans. While not rejected outright, this suggestion was packed off to the bureaucratic junkyard, to be reexamined by a new, three-member committee.

A number of important proposals in the Brodet Committee's report were approved, such as allowing Individual Retirement Accounts, limiting the extent of government-designated bonds, establishing a secondary mortgage market, and increasing the range of investment options available to the local investor. All of these are in keeping with the Netanyahu government's declared policies of decreasing the government's role in the economy and moving towards greater economic freedom.

Indeed, had the cabinet approved the taxation of short-term savings, it would have reduced personal flexibility, and in suggesting such a move, the Brodet Committee essentially shot itself in the foot.

Israeli investors have always lacked lucrative, long-term financial instruments, whether in the form of freely negotiable long-term bonds, an ample supply of blue-chip stocks, or freely accessible foreign securities. Government-designated bonds and propped-up pension funds have been the instruments luring long-term

savers. To be fair, the inflationary economic environment made short-term investment plans unattractive until relatively recently, when the Bank of Israel's support of high interest rates, in response to the harmful fiscal policies undertaken by the Labor government, suddenly created a situation in which short-term savings could keep ahead of inflation. This, coupled with a general dissatisfaction with long-term economic prospects — also a reaction to fiscal policies — caused the massive flight away from provident funds and government bonds and to short-term plans, and led to the creation of the Brodet Committee in the first place.

Long-term savings and the health of the nation's financial markets are important for the economy, and a correction of the problem is indeed called for. Instead of making recommendations that would deal with the roots of this problem, the committee took a typical bureaucratic tack and recommended "forcing" citizens to prefer long-term investments. It proposed offering provident-fund tax breaks only when the funds are redeemed at retirement age, increasing tax exemptions on pensions, and punishing savings plans shorter than 10 years in duration by taxing the interest earned on them.

The committee's proposed scheme is also especially inflexible: To qualify for tax breaks under the committee's proposals, a savings plan would have to run for multiples of 10 years — once a 10-year plan has matured, an investor must either renew it for another 10 years or cash it in. Reinvesting the money in a short-term plan would mean paying tax on the interest.

This recommendation, instead of encouraging savings, could boomerang and reduce overall savings. Tax breaks alone are not likely to persuade people to lock away their money for a decade, and imposing taxes on short-term plans will make those unattractive. The public's savings level has dropped over recent years, itself a very negative sign for the economy. The last thing it needs is policies that discourage savings.

Having put off the Brodet Committee's recommendations on taxing savings, Netanyahu has shown he can take a stand in his cabinet and win. The question now is whether he can also smooth over the finance minister's ruffled feathers, and deal with the root problems currently plaguing the economy: Cutting the deficit, and initiating structural reforms in the capital market.



Read on

ELI BIRNBAUM

MOST of us like nothing better than to pick up a steaming cup of coffee, munch on a piece of cake and relax while turning the pages of the daily paper.

Play an identical scenario with a good novel, soft music and an ice-cold glass of lemonade, and you've got the same idea.

Now think about doing the same — but replace your couch or armchair with a hardback swivel office chair and your computer. Something doesn't sit right (aside from you).

Despite all the pundits waving signs that read, "The end is near" there is no way your computer can or will supplant your paper or that good book.

Part of the great reading experience is the comforting, tactile feeling of a book. It's turning the pages, maybe glancing ahead to see how many more you have left before the climax.

How could staring at a computer screen ever be as satisfying as casually skimming a full page of newspaper, your eyes roaming at will over the headlines? Then there's that lovely crisp sound you get when you fold the paper any way you like and read articles at whim...

Without waxing too poetic — reading off paper is one of life's quiet, simple joys. It uses most of our senses, adding meanwhile (or so we believe) to our understanding of what's going on in the great wide world.

What about computers in the academic field? Again, one cannot avoid mentioning the pleasing role of paper, remembering that quick locating of a relevant paragraph, the firm highlighting with the ubiquitous yellow marker. Try scrolling down with your mouse, you say? It's no substitute at all.

One of my secret enjoyments while doing research was having five books on my living room table, all open at the same time, savoring the excitement of discovering similarities or discrepancies between the various texts. When you're working with a computer there's no way you can jump back and forth between pages, keeping your finger on comparative texts.

When I factor in the eye-strain involved in reading a computer monitor, the back-strain that ensues from prolonged sitting in one position in an uncomfortable

Good cop, bad cop

BARBARA AMIEL

WHAT is it about Israel that brings out the mendacity and hypocrisy in politicians and journalists that few other issues tap?

"A government of hardliners has only itself to blame for the violence," read the headline on Jeffrey Simpson's *Globe and Mail* column, referring to the Likud government.

The words were a not inaccurate summary of Simpson's piece, that accused the Likud of "vilifying Mr. Arafat and seizing on every opportunity to portray him and the Palestinians as untrustworthy and dangerous."

Other newspaper stories were similar. The *Toronto Star* concluded that Netanyahu had "squandered" Arab goodwill and "endangered" a self-fulfilling prophecy by demonizing the Palestinians until they rose to the bait.

Apart from the perpetual dispute about settlements (which brings in the Arab demand for "right of return") in summary, the main charges against Israel are:

- It has been "provocative" and indifferent to Islamic sensibilities by opening the Hasmonean Tunnel that runs near the Arab mosques on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.
- It has "humiliated" Yasser Arafat by demolishing an Arab building in the Old City of Jerusalem and by delaying implementation of the Oslo accords.
- Netanyahu waited too long to meet Arafat.

How can these charges be answered?

The tunnel does not endanger a single holy site, running as it does next to the Western Wall (the Jews' most holy site) and opening on the Via Dolorosa, one of the Christians' most holy sites. The Temple Mount, which houses two Arab mosques next to the tunnel, is administered by a self-appointed Moslem body, the Waqf. The Waqf agreed in principle to the opening of the tunnel in exchange for use of a cave as a mosque. That site is now in use and the Waqf is (illegally) building a permanent mosque in it.

The real "provocation" to holy sites has been entirely by the Moslems who, during the Jordanian rule over eastern

Jerusalem, systematically destroyed all evidence of the First and Second Temples, as well as desecrating synagogues, using Jewish tombstones for latrines and bombing the Intercontinental Hotel atop the Mount of Olives.

The only people who do not have complete freedom of worship on the Temple Mount are the Jews.

Until 1967, Jews were forbidden by the chief rabbis to set foot on the Temple Mount in case by accident they stepped on the sacred

and viewers were treated to a picture of Netanyahu with a gaping hole in his chest, a bull's-eye around it and the caption "Hamas, do your work." In the riots, Israeli-armed Palestinian Authority police turned on the Jews they were supposed to be protecting in Nablus.

How on earth can Netanyahu withdraw from Hebron and leave the small Jewish community at the mercy of the same Palestinian Authority?

Was Netanyahu "provocative" in delaying meeting with Arafat? Violence has always worked for Arafat, and the problem for the Israelis is how to get the world to see this.

The minute the Palestinians embarked on their campaign of worldwide violence in the '60s, hijacking planes and blowing up airports, they put themselves on the political agenda.

Selective violence is Arafat's most successful weapon. His approach is the good cop/bad cop game. Negotiate with me or you'll have Hamas, he says. In his role as good cop he consolidates the bad cop's gains. For Israel to continue with this is a mug's game.

If, whenever there is a snag in the peace negotiations, Arafat has his PA turn its guns on Jewish settlers or threatens Israel with Hamas, there is simply no point to negotiations.

If Arafat cannot deliver because he cannot control the Palestinians, then why negotiate with him? Netanyahu should wait for Hafez Assad, Abu Jihad, or Hamas.

But the point is, Arafat can deliver. He is far wiliier and more skilled than many observers thought. He can stop the terrorists and the suicide bombers and control the PA, if he wishes.

The problem is this: Just as both doves and hawks in Israel want peace — only a matter of tactics divide them — so in the Arab world (apart from Jordan and perhaps Egypt) only a tactical division separates the unanimous desire to eliminate Israel.

The writer is editorial vice-president of Hollinger International Inc. and columnist for The Daily Telegraph.

spot known as the Holy of Holies. But since 1967 it has been possible to designate "safe" areas, and groups of religious Jews have petitioned to go on the Temple Mount. Permission has been refused, lest they offend Moslem sensibilities.

The Arab building that was demolished in Jerusalem's Old City was built several years ago as a community center. No building permit was sought. It was believed the reason was simply to create a provocative situation. The decision to demolish the building was made by the municipality of Jerusalem before the Netanyahu government was elected.

THE QUESTION of Palestinian poverty revolves largely around the district of Arafat.

The Israeli government has given Arafat more than \$100m. since the Palestinian elections. International donors have pledged \$2.1b. to the Palestinians over five years and have given 25 percent of that to Arafat. The remainder awaits the establishment of "accountability transparency" — hard to obtain as Arafat signs all checks and is alleged to pocket a good deal of the money.

Just before the riots last month, for which Arafat's Palestinian media had been calling, readers

Playing along with Arafat's selective violence would be a mug's game

Computers are great, but you can't snuggle up with them

chair, my vote goes to paper every time — well, almost.

HONESTY compels me to admit that the Internet has tremendous potential, especially in the field of Jewish education.

First, it can reach thousands of people everywhere who would not normally have access to such wealth of material and debate. Second, it can serve as a bridge between (Jewish) communities and schools worldwide, strengthening the Israel-Diaspora partnership.

Third, it is (my foregoing lament notwithstanding) virtually irreplaceable in research. Fourth, it is the cheapest and most efficient method of allowing ideas and concepts to flow freely. It can be utilized to expand existing educational methods and systems and create new ones.

With over 2,000 people from 21 countries taking courses at the Jewish University In Cyberspace and dozens of high schools cooperating on joint projects worldwide; when you can get an MBA from a University in Scotland over the net, we cannot help but recognize and internalize this revolution.

But... will the computer replace paper? Only marginally, in my opinion, since most of us will simply press on the print button anyway when we find what we want.

Will the computer replace my morning paper or my latest Ludlum novel? No way.

Will the computer replace my morning paper or my latest Ludlum novel? No way.

Maybe, when I can stretch out on my couch, a pillow behind my neck, holding my computer in one hand and a glass of iced tea in the other.

The writer, a psychologist, is the initiator of the Jewish Agency Internet project.

POSTSCRIPT

LONDON DOG-LOVERS who let their pets foul the streets are being targeted by a cinema ad campaign showing a man defecating on the sidewalk.

"You wouldn't. Don't let your dog" is the message, as the man's neighbor slips on the dog.

"We've tried the soft approach, but there are some people it clearly isn't getting through to," said the London official responsible for the campaign.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MEDIA AND THE TRUTH

Sir, — Any Israeli looking for objectivity these days has to be a masochist to watch the news on the BBC, CNN, and Sky networks, or, I'm ashamed to say, our own Israeli channels. The verbal and visual distortions, simplifications and inaccurate reporting of recent events are hard to take. Is this evidence of bias (anti-Israel, in the case of the overseas networks, anti-government in the case of our own media) or just sloppy journalism?

Let us take one seemingly trivial example. We are repeatedly told that Netanyahu opened the Hasmonean Tunnel, and that this action triggered off the violent Palestinian reaction. The operative phrase "the opening of the tunnel" is untrue and misleading. It postulates a new initiative; that a previously closed tunnel has now been opened. The reality (as I, and thousands of others who have walked its length during the past year can attest) is that tunnel is an existing facility, a well-used tourist attraction and instructive archaeological site opened to the public by the previous government. What is new is merely an exit at the far end. I have been waiting impatiently to learn how this new exit onto a commercial street unilaterally alters the status of Jerusalem, or constitutes a threat to the holy sites, or is an affront to the sensibilities of Islam.

If we get the basic facts wrong, how can we interpret them correctly? Misrepresentation of this fact by the Palestinians was the essential inflammatory material for inciting the mobs to violence, and a clever

DRIVING IN BRITAIN

Sir, — Having just returned from the UK, I must compare the driving behavior in that country and ours.

During three weeks of our stay which included residing on one of the busiest roads in London and traveling extensively in the countryside, we hardly heard a "hoooter."

Drivers on the highways stay in their lanes and although the speed limit is higher, one does not feel threatened. The heavy vehicles do not deviate from one or two lanes and neither do they exceed their permitted speed. One is aware of traffic-police presence all the time.

Despite sporadic reports of road rage (symptom of frustration of British society), the effect of the "road calming" projects within the towns is apparent.

Clearly defined markings, humps and a whole variety of innovations including signs about speed and warnings of cameras, are influencing the public at large and drivers in particular.

It is patently clear that the authorities in Israel have a lot to learn from Britain. Let us hope that Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy's timely visit to the UK will bear fruit in the coming year.

ZELDA HARRIS, Spokesperson, Metuna, Netanya.

NINA BERNSTEIN

Sir, — You report on October 1 that Nina Bernstein, 34, canceled her visit to Jerusalem to chair the Judges' committee for the International Leonard Bernstein Competition.

Her late father, in whose memory the yearly competitions are held in Jerusalem, braved Arab guns in 1947 (he was 29 years old then) and conducted the then Palestine Orchestra following dangerous trips from Tel Aviv. In 1948, he conducted the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra (and played the piano) in Beersheba, just liberated. In 1967, he led the orchestra in a memorable concert on Mount Scopus after the Six Day War, with Jordanian soldiers still in sight — to quote just a few instances in the life of Nina's unforgettable father. Apart from his regular guest visits, Leonard Bernstein was always present when Israel was in danger or in serious trouble.

PROF. PETER E. GRADEWITZ, Tel Aviv.

WASHINGTON VICTORY

Sir, — Despite the Opposition's hopeful assertions, Binyamin Netanyahu did not go to Canossa. He did not even go to Munich, as President Clinton is not yet ready to play the role of Neville Chamberlain.

Netanyahu won a diplomatic victory in Washington because he put Israel's national interest and security before all other considerations and insisted — unlike Rabin and Peres — that agreements signed with Arabs bind both sides. The Oslo-Cairo Agreements are bad agreements. But they provide for a formal abrogation of the Palestinian Covenant by the Palestine National Council and for the extraditing of Palestinians who kill Israelis. Moreover, they confer no rights whatever on the PLO in Jerusalem. It seems that Shimon Peres, Ehud Barak and

Myth dispelled by history

JAY BUSHINSKY

ONE of the most persistent political myths that crop up every four years when US presidential campaigns go into high gear is that US diplomacy lays off the Middle East.

The implied premise is that the so-called "Jewish vote" will go against the incumbent or challenger if either advocates policies deemed inimical to Israel's interests. Neither history nor political logic bear this out.

There was no electoral backlash in 1948 when President Harry S Truman imposed an arms embargo on the then-fledgling State of Israel despite the invasion of at least five Arab armies (Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq) and Israel's underdog struggle to defend its independence.

In 1956 President Dwight D. Eisenhower did not conceal his rage over the Israeli armed forces' lightning takeover of the Gaza Strip and Sinai peninsula or delay his demand for their immediate withdrawal.

The most dramatic proof that the votes cast by American Jews are not decisive in American elections was President George W. Bush's cynical comment about having to fend off powerful interests all by himself. The issue was Israel's request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees, and the implication was that when American Jewry exerts pressure on a well-meaning chief executive it has the upper hand.

Bush knew that the vast majority of American Jews do not

toward Israel is not their main concern the electoral vote notion falls by the wayside.

There is good reason to believe that the British news media's frequent evocation of the "Jewish vote" as a determining factor in US foreign policy toward Israel and the rest of the Middle East whenever the presidency is at stake stems from the late foreign minister Ernest Bevin's fixation about the invisible powers of American Jewry during the 1947-48 crisis in pre-Israel Palestine.

Bevin and many of his fellow Laborites wrongly attributed Truman's initial support of Jewish statehood to his desire for a presidential term in his own right and his consequent dependence on Jewish votes.

By the same token, the bugaboo published by one of *Ha'aretz's* pundits to the effect that President Clinton's alleged impatience with Prime Minister Netanyahu will not come out into the open until after the November 5 presidential election also is nonsense, as is the concurrent prediction that Clinton will bring heavy pressure to bear on Israel as soon as he is reelected — the assumption being that his electoral victory, though inevitable and essential (for *Ha'aretz's* concept of the peace process to be realized) depends on his capturing "the Jewish vote."

The writer is a foreign correspondent.

select their preferred candidate for president primarily or exclusively in terms of Israel — treatment of policy toward, attitude to or sympathy with.

Like most other Americans, domestic policy is their main concern: federal income tax rates, unemployment, inflation, the national debt and access to medical care, the quality of public education, the crime rate.

legal abortions and equal job and schooling opportunities.

THE NOTION that the American-Jewish electorate can decide the outcome of a presidential election evidently stems from the belief that US Jews are concentrated in the states that have the most electoral votes — California, New York, Illinois, Florida and Pennsylvania.

By staying on the Jews' good side in those states, according to this logic, a candidate has a better chance of winning the popular vote and thereby accruing all of their electoral votes.

But if American Jews do not vote en bloc and US policy

Votes cast by American Jews are not decisive in American elections

אלהא מן האל

Mad dogs and Israelis

EMILY HAUSER

An upper middle-class couple, a corrupt cop, a newly religious soccer fan, the owner of a street-side kiosk, a pimp and his prostitute - what could these people possibly have in common?

These characters, along with several others, are fellow travelers through the urban night (which achieves virtual-character status itself) in the recently released comedy *Dogs Are Color-Blind* (Klavin Lo Novhim Beyarok), a sort of Israeli *Short Cuts*, where everyone is somehow connected to everyone else and no one really is what they seem.

Dogs Are Color-Blind is the project of an upper-middle-class couple, Yohanan and Orna Raviv, who directed and produced the film, as well as adapting the script for the screen. The two have been working on the film for the past five years, and the local media have been in a buzz about it for nearly as long.

Dogs follows the paths of a loose group of people as they wander through a series of offbeat circumstances in the course of a single night. Naomi and Tziki, a couple with serious communication problems, find their home has been robbed and, in the course of the evening and early-morning hours, meet, befriend and/or have sex with a veritable cross-section of Israeli society.

As the night wears on, much of what Tziki and Naomi take for



A married couple (Keren Mor and Dov Navon) appeal to their strange, newly religious friend (Sharon Raginiانو) in the local movie 'Dogs Are Color-Blind.'

granted is thrown into question and very little is as it first seems. Is the cop a good guy, or a potential peeping Tom? Does Tziki frequent prostitutes - or does Naomi have a sideline herself as a call girl? Is the pimp scum, or a well-meaning, if weak, pal? And will Naomi ever have an orgasm with anyone?

Yohanan and Orna Raviv recall that they fell in love with the story of *Dogs* the first time they read the script. Originally written by Amos Ever-Hadani and Noam Berkovitz, the final screenplay was a much-worked-over version of the script - a fact which led to a well-publicized argument as to who should be given writing credit.

Their own excitement aside, however, the Raviv team initially had a difficult time finding funding for the \$850,000 project. "It took us a long time to win the 'jury' over," Yohanan says. "This movie isn't characteristic of the kind of films that are usually given financial backing here."

Orna adds: "I think people had a hard time with the fact that it's a comedy - it didn't seem serious enough. It didn't have a clear ideological message." The money did arrive in the end, from such disparate sources as the Ministry for Trade and Industry and the Fund for Quality Israeli Films, among others.

Yohanan stresses that *Dogs* does indeed carry a message or two, however. "The first message is that

A 'Single Guy' raises his profile

JONATHAN Silverman is keenly aware of the pros and cons of starring in a television series. The 29-year-old actor, who has appeared in some 18 movies and headlined on Broadway-winning *Broadway Bound*, stars in the NBC comedy *The Single Guy*, in which he plays - who else? - a single guy. Silverman's Jonathan is a witty, articulate writer looking for his perfect soul mate.

"I think the toughest part about doing TV is the lack of anonymity that I imagine is going to happen," says Silverman, during a break from the *Single Guy* rehearsals. "I have been fortunate in the sense that in my 10 or 11 years of doing this, I have made a rather handsome living and haven't had to really pay the price in terms of having my privacy stripped away. I can go to a ballgame and not be bothered."

But he noticed people noticing him when NBC began airing *Single Guy* promos. "It's overwhelming," says Silverman, a real-life single guy who is unfailingly polite and charming.

Still, he says, doing a sitcom allows him to have a life. "You don't have to wake up at 4 in the morning and you don't have to go off to faraway lands to work," he says with a smile. "If you make dinner plans at 8 o'clock you might be able to keep them."

But the biggest plus about doing *The Single Guy* is that Silverman's profile has risen in the Hollywood

Emotions swing in revamped 'Land'

DANCE REVIEW
ORA BRAFMAN

Land of Rape and Honey - Choreographers: Nir Ben-Gal and Liat Dror.

RECENTLY, Ben-Gal and Dror reworked their latest piece that premiered at this year's Israel Festival, in a brave step that recognizes some of the communication problems they've encountered even with their most avid followers.

The work itself deals with an obsessive search for a lost love in a broad sense, from personal manifestation of basic needs to metaphysical yearnings. Ben-Gal, who dances with a group of six dancers, and for the first time without his on-and-off stage partner Dror, is the odd man out who intrudes on a series of short scenes that deal with many strange aspects of human relationships.

It may start with a Big Mama who takes the "boys" on her knees, bares their posterior and spansks it indifferently, and then move to a man who ceremoniously washes the foot of his love so he can lick it and ends holding her head under water until he feels truly uncomfortable.

Yet each scene tends to change its message with a forever-shifting balance of power between the partners, resulting in attributing intentions that hold their own

Sheryl Crow: Techno tricks meet '70s songs

IN TUNE
DAVID BRINN

Sheryl Crow
SHERYL CROW (Helicon)
Between the 1 and the 9
PATTI ROTHBERG (NMC)
A Man and a Woman
BELINDA CARLISLE (NMC)

MAINSTREAM rock is definitely being taken over by women. Whereas in the past, a Patti Smith or a Chrissie Hynde was a novel aberration in the male-dominated world, today you can't switch the dial without hearing another female rocker. From Alanis Morissette and Joan Osborne to Melissa Etheridge and PJ Harvey, the invisible separation that has always existed between male and female rock has been permanently erased.

Sheryl Crow is a good example of a woman making it sound so natural that gender is not an issue. In Crow's case, you have the dizzying rise from backup singer to international star with one album. *Tuesday Night Music Club* contained a huge hit, "All I Wanna Do," which was overplayed so much it almost negated the endearing goodwill the rest of the album built up.

Her sophomore self-titled follow-up features more Linda Ronstadt country-rock stylings and Stones-like gritty guitar riffs, but displays a giant leap in songwriting.

A number of the tunes sound

immediately like classics - as if you've heard them before even as you're hearing them for the first time.

Standouts include "Sweet Rosalyn," "Oh Marie" and "If it Makes You Happy."

Crow's penchant for kitchen-sink type arrangements including industrial hand-clapping and electronic loops instead of live drums injects a '90s techno flavor into the proceedings, but the embellishments never overpower the songs themselves, which are strictly from the '70s.

It's unlikely that this will be a blockbuster like her first record, but at least artistically, Crow has dealt the sophomore jinx a TKO.

PATTI ROTHBERG has no sophomore worries yet, since she can still revel in the glory of her debut, *Between the 1 and the 9*. The title refers to the location where she would play as a street musician in the NYC subway system.

If you could create an artist whose voice sounded like Suzanne Vega, played guitar like Bonnie Raitt and grew up listening to The Beatles, this sparkling debut would be the final result.

The 24-year-old Rothberg loves words, sometimes cramming as many as she can into a verse, like early Dylan or Springsteen.

There are a couple of electrifying angry-young-woman tirades in "This One's Mine" and "Treat Me Like Dirt," but just when you're ready to write her off as a talented Morissette clone, she turns vulnerable with "Forgive Me" and



Sheryl Crow's superstar status is confirmed by her new album.

Got the Beat." But all together, it spells boring.

Aside from the spunky "California" with fitting back-up vocals from Brian Wilson, the album sounds bland and uninspired.

Making adult contemporary pop is one thing, but having it sound like it could be played on a muzak elevator is another.

Ground Control to Major Tomer

Let the records show that the first song about UFOs and Israel has been released, by veteran immigrant and professional songwriter Ben Reuben. *Planet Zlonist* ("Zlonist" is the Hebrew word for aliyah, Zionism, life on Mars, and antisemitism, making it one of the more original songs to hit local airwaves recently. Listen for it on Radio 3.

The Circus Comes to Town

Twenty-eight years after it became an instant enigma, one of the legendary lost rock 'n' roll performances is about to be released on video and CD.

Rock & Roll Circus, filmed but never shown for British TV, features The Rolling Stones in their 1968 glory in front of a small audience, and with a little help from their friends, including John Lennon, Eric Clapton and The Who.

The reason the film was never released was that the Stones feared that they paled considerably compared to The Who's performance. Now, everyone can judge for themselves.

Subtleties lost on Bernstein contest judges

THE jury's verdict in the Leonard Bernstein International Oratorio and Song Competition brought into question its own criteria of evaluation.

Soprano Kelly Nassief was the US, one of the laureates, was an obvious choice and she wisely chose to sing Beethoven's "Ah, Perfido."

But Romanian mezzo-soprano Carmen Oprisanu's success as laureate reflected poorly on the artistic standards of the jury.

The jury appears to have been dumbstruck by a tone volume that was as overpowering as it was embarrassingly crude. Mozart's "Laudamus Te" from his Mass in C Minor sounded vulgarly showy. An aria from Rossini's *Sabat Mater* was cheaply melodramatic, with no trace of reverential spirituality.

It is hardly surprising then, that the subtleties and refinement of the Swedish contralto Anna Larsson appeared to be wasted on this jury. Her warm, soft, delightful voice; her genuine, unexaggerated expression in Bach's "Have Mercy" from his St. Matthew's Passion, and the profoundly moving emotion in one of Mahler's *Kinderstuenlieder* obviously were beyond the insensitive ears of a competition jury. Doing her the favor of an "honorary mention" could hardly compensate for the title of "laureate" that this juror in the audience had conferred on her.

Jerusalem Theater, October 6-7.
Ury Eppstein

CONCERT ROUNDUP

Germany lovingly caressed the melodies and displayed lightning virtuosity in Telemann's Recorder Concerto. The more assertive Baroque transverse flute presented by Janet See from England in Vivaldi's *Il Gardellino* Concerto, highlighted this instrument's sonority.

The intimate sound as well as the virtuoso potential of the Baroque cello were impressively realized by Rainer Zipperling from Germany in another Vivaldi concerto. Coordination of the two harpsichords in Bach's Concerto BWV 1061 was convincingly achieved by John Toll from England and Shalev Ad-El.

Jill Feldman from France brought nearly forgotten pieces by Corradini and Merula to life with her pure, bright soprano, and Richard Wisreich from England, in works by Kapsberger and Monteverdi, sang with his amazingly deep, dark bass.

Among the period instruments the Baroque violin, played by Andrew Manze from England, sounded surprisingly glamorous in sonatas by Corradini and Cima. The sonorous sounds of the arch-lute were subtly conjured up by Jonathan Rubin from Switzerland in a Toccata and Gagliarda by Kapsberger.

Tel Aviv Museum, October 8.
Ury Eppstein

IT HAS been a while since the Ra'anana Symphonette Orchestra has played a truly classical program. Under previous music director Yeroham Scharovsky the orchestra always tended to lean towards the lighter classics, at

Marriage, morality and midlife crises

Sylvia, A Romantic Comedy by A.R. Gurney. Translation, Ehud Manor. Direction, Roni Pinkowitch. Set, Douglas Heap. Costumes, Orna Sengorsky. Beit Lessin Theater, Tel Aviv.

There were no gimmicks here whatsoever, nor an attempt at a personal interpretation.

Rather, we got a very clear reading of the score, pure music presented with all its beauty, Zaliouk and the orchestra accompanied with matching grace.

Before the intermission Zaliouk and the orchestra were not up to their best form in the overture *Das Heimkehr dem Fremde* and Jonathan Biss was rushing in the first piano concerto much more than necessary. He delivered a very dignified second movement but his tempi were all too fast in the enveloping movements which ended in an imbalanced performance.

Ra'anana, Yad Labanim, October 9.
Michael Aizenstadt

THEATER REVIEW
NAOMI DOUDAI

As anxiety over his extramarital capers mounts, she turns for help, first to Iris, an obsessively clean and conventional friend, and then to Sharon, a weirdo psychic consultant of ambivalent sex. Both roles are played in drag by Lior Ashkenazi with hilarious panache. In addition he plays Avner, a man Michael meets in the Park.

And what is Michael doing in the Park, especially in the depth of the night? For the answer to that - as well as to who is Sylvia - you will have to go and see for yourself. Undoubtedly you will find the visit worthwhile.

An evening full of fun and laughs awaits you, culminated by Douglas Heap's smart set. He camouflages Beit Lessin's impossibly shallow stage with a painted panoramic background that gives the comforting illusion of a colossal city stretching into the distance.

right antidote for these gloomy times.

Oded Teomi's Michael - a married man in a midlife crisis - is rich in whimsy and humor, and he abounds with charm.

On the lookout for a new lifestyle that will free him from the constraints of domesticity and an irksome occupation, he meets Sylvia in the park. She proves herself his savior as he too becomes hers.

The love between them developing into a highly charged relationship is soon a bone of contention between him and Katie, his very practical and unromantic wife, played by Dina Doron who counters his fantasies of new-found freedom with a no-nonsense, down-to-earth denial.

A DOUBLE bill of two consecutive Baroque music concerts, in one almost-too-long evening, celebrated the happy end of the Workshop for Early Music.

Michael Schneider from

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEKS ON		ARTIST	TITLE
WEEK	CHARTS		
#1	1	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	COLLECTION
#2	2	VIA	HITMAN 7
#3	9	SHLOMO ARTZI	SHINAIM
#4	8	FRITA	TIME STOPS
#5	10	FRIENDS OF NATASHA	LIVE
#6	5	VIA	PARTY TIME II
#7	6	VIA	GUSH DANCE CLUB IV
#8	4	VIA	SHALOM HAVER
#9	7	ALANIS MORISSETTE	JAGGED LITTLE PILL
#10	15	OST	TRAINSPOTTING
#11	RE	VIA	LAST RAIN - YAIR ROZENBLUM
#12	14	VIA	TOP POWER '96
#13	RE	VIA	THE SCORE
#14	RE	VIA	NOW 94
#15	NEW!	NAS	IT WAS WRITTEN

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Tuesday, October 15, 1996

Experts' panel to propose alternatives to Brodet's recommendations

DAVID HARRIS

AFTER hours of debate, the government decided early yesterday to establish a panel to investigate alternatives to the Brodet committee's plan to tax interest on short- and medium-term savings.

TASE unaffected by cabinet's vote on Brodet report

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Tel Aviv Stock Exchange's trading floors yesterday reflected financial market apathy in the face of the government's decision on the Brodet recommendations to reform the capital market, but investors said their confidence in the government has weakened.

recommendations, and Yuli Edelstein (Immigration and Absorption) abstained. Sharansky spokesman Roman Polanski said the Minister had no doubt all the recommendations made economic sense, including the taxation of interest on short- and medium-term savings.

Scitex revamp: Staff to be cut, office to close

SCITEK Corp., the once high-flying maker of computerized printing equipment, said it is reorganizing its main division by firing staff, closing offices and redirecting spending.

particularly in technology and buying patterns. Scitex shares are not traded in Israel. They closed Friday on Wall Street up 6 cents at \$10.625, and in early trading yesterday were up 25 cents at \$10.875.

Lockheed bid to buy TAAS heavy munitions division on hold

STEVE RODAN

THE government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will have to decide within the next few weeks whether to proceed with offers from major international defense contractors to buy TAAS's heavy munitions division, defense sources said yesterday.

They included British Aerospace and the American firm Olin, as well as several European companies. In April, Lockheed Martin presented an offer to buy at least 40 percent of the heavy munitions division of Ramat Hasharon-based TAAS.

Central bank, government, industrialists move toward rate-cut consensus

DAVID HARRIS

THERE has been some progress toward persuading the Bank of Israel to lower interest rates, according to several participants in the latest in a series of meetings between the government, the central bank and leading industrialists.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hosted yesterday's session, which was also attended by Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, and a team of industrialists led by Manufacturers Association President Dan Propper.

In a statement after the meeting, the Trade and Industry Ministry said there was consensus on the need to cut interest rates, "but there was an argument as to the means and timetable" for such a step.

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BRUSSELS (Reuters) - The last significant barrier to the birth of a European banking colossus in Belgium's publicly-owned Credit Communal/Gemeentelidcreidiet (CCB) overwhelmingly approved a tie-up with Credit Local de France (CLF).

Banker. Economy will suffer if peace process fails to get back on track

GREER FAY CASHMAN

THE economy will suffer a severe downturn, if the peace process does not get back on track, according to the head of international marketing of securities at Bank Hapoalim.

The effect of a stalled peace process is likely to be felt most in investments in securities portfolios, rather than in direct investments, said Nadine Baudot-Trajtenberg, who is a senior vice president at the bank.

This is not the case in Europe, she said. "The politics of today can affect a meeting planned for a week from now."

Major French, Belgian banks announce alliance

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - The last significant barrier to the birth of a European banking colossus in Belgium's publicly-owned Credit Communal/Gemeentelidcreidiet (CCB) overwhelmingly approved a tie-up with Credit Local de France (CLF).

Under the terms of the banks' plan, CCB and CLF will take cross-holdings in each other's capital. Between 25% and 30% of CCB will also be sold to institutional and retail investors in an initial public offering on the Brussels Stock Exchange. CLF is already listed in Paris.

The Netherlands' Bank der Nederlandsche Gemeenten, while remaining outside the group structure, will be associated with Dexia through a 5% stake in CLF and will have a seat on the two banks' boards.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS. Table with 4 columns: Currency (deposit term), 3 MONTHS, 6 MONTHS, 12 MONTHS. Includes sub-tables for Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates and CHECKS AND TRANSFERS.

Handwritten text in Hebrew: הלואה על האסוף

הלאה מן אילנות

Stocks fall amid concern over Scitex cuts

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

FELICE MARANZ

178.70 -0.27%

187.58 -0.44%

Two-Sided Index

Maof Index

ISRAELI stocks fell for a fourth day amid concern losses at Scitex Corp., considered a leader in Israel's high-tech industry, will hurt other companies.

The Maof Index fell 0.44% to 187.58 and the Two-Sided Index fell 0.27% to 178.70.

Investors are looking towards tomorrow's publication of September's consumer price index for an indication of whether the Bank of Israel will lower interest rates, Alt said.

Yet even if the CPI reveals an increase lower than the 0.6% gain economists expect, he added, "the central bank is unlikely to lower interest rates a significant amount."

A cabinet decision to approve only part of a Finance Ministry-sponsored package of reforms designed to bolster the exchange had little impact, Alt said, as "even if it had passed in full it wouldn't have had an immediate effect on the market."

(Bloomberg)

European markets gain, buoyed by Wall Street rise

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - Leading stocks hit another record close yesterday as benign domestic inflation data and gains in US stocks combined to push prices ahead in a generally quiet London session. Shares edged ahead through the afternoon as the Dow broke back above the 6,000 level, the FTSE 100 finishing at a new closing best of 4,038.7, 10.6 points up on the day. Its previous best of 4,035.6 was set on October 8.

FRANKFURT - The IBIS DAX index ended afternoon electronic dealings just above the psychologically important level of 2,700 points, lifted by strength on Wall Street. The index ended up 8.14 points at 2,700.83, after the Dow Jones surged in its early afternoon trading at 7.85 points, or 0.29 percent, at 2,693.88.

PARIS - Shares closed slightly lower in quiet trading as the market continued its consolidation above the 2,100 level for the blue-chip index with some uneasiness in the market about Thursday's public sector strike. The blue-chip CAC-40 index was down 3.50 points or 0.16% at 2,143.62.

ZURICH - Shares ended a listless and rangebound session slightly higher after posting moderate gains early in the session on the back of Wall Street's strength on Friday. The all-share Swiss Performance Index added 5.24 points, or 0.22%, to 2,440.88.

TOKYO - Stocks managed to claw back into positive territory by the end of the session, but turnover tumbled to a new low for the year, brokers said, adding that it reflected the cautious trade. They said most investors were inactive ahead of the elections on October 20. The Nikkei 225 swung back 61.09 points or 0.29% higher at 21,029.25.

HONG KONG - The Hang Seng index scored a record closing high, as the market took its lead from Friday's rise in US stocks and bonds, and investors continued to look for further gains in local share prices. The Hang Seng index closed 111.95 points higher at 12,330.35.

SYDNEY - The share market climbed to a record close with market sentiment buoyed by a Wall Street rally on Friday and an A\$2.65 billion merger proposal between two regional banks. The key share market barometer, the All Ordinaries index ended 26.5 points higher at 2,363.3, three points lower than the intra-day and all time high of 2,366.3 set in afternoon trade.

JOHANNESBURG - Shares ended firm in quiet trade, with golds supported by gold quarterly results and industrials lifted by gains in key stocks. Dealers said there was mixed reaction to the gold quarterly results which were mostly in line with expectations. The overall index added 17 points to 7,051.5 points, industrial index gained 27.9 points to 8,298.3 points, and gold index rose 7.1 points to 1,735.2 points.

Wall Street closes above 6,000 for first time

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - The Dow Jones industrial average rolled to its first close above 6,000 yesterday, as Friday's momentum carried a quiet Columbus Day session, lifting several stock measures to new highs.

On Wall Street, the Dow rose 40.62 points, finishing at 6,010. Earlier, the well-known barometer of 30 big US companies rose as high as 6,020.81, breaking its previous intraday record at 6,010.37, set early last week.

The Dow had crossed the 6,000-mark for the first time last Monday, and did it again the following day, but retreated each time.

The Standard and Poor's 500-stock index rose 2.88 to 703.54, edging last Monday's record finish at 703.34. The NYSE's composite index rose 1.34 to 374.23, about half a point shy of a new high.

The Nasdaq composite index rose 1.256,36, beating last Monday's record close at 1,250.87. The American Stock Exchange's market value index fell 1.08 to 579.33.

FRANKFURT - The DAX index ended afternoon electronic dealings just above the psychologically important level of 2,700 points, lifted by strength on Wall Street. The index ended up 8.14 points at 2,700.83, after the Dow Jones surged in its early afternoon trading at 7.85 points, or 0.29 percent, at 2,693.88.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table with columns: MARK, STERLING, YEN, SFY, FFF. Rows include Sterling, Yen, SFY, FFF.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Two-sided trading

Main stock market table with columns: Name, Price, Chg, % Chg, Volume, Price, Chg, % Chg, Volume. Includes sections for Commercial Banks, Industrials, Mortgage Banks & Finance, Financial Institutions, Insurance, Trade & Services, and Property, Building & Agriculture.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table of international stock prices with columns: Name, Price, Chg, % Chg, Name, Price, Chg, % Chg, Name, Price, Chg, % Chg.

Key Representative Rates: US dollar ... NIS 3.1920 +0.03%, Sterling ... NIS 5.0354 +0.25%, Mark ... NIS 2.0855 -0.02%

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET INDEXES: DJ Industrial +0.10, DJ Total +0.02, NYSE Composite +0.01, etc.

Other stock market indexes: FTSE 100 +0.10, Nikkei 225 +10.6, Hang Seng +11.9, etc.

Israeli stocks in US: Am & Pop +0.00, Amgen +0.00, Amgen +0.00, etc.

NYSE / AMEX / NASDAQ / OTC: Am & Pop +0.00, Amgen +0.00, Amgen +0.00, etc.

Libor rates: 3 months +0.00, 6 months +0.00, 12 months +0.00, etc.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

US commodities: Cocoa (Dec) +0.00, Coffee (Dec) +0.00, Sugar (Dec) +0.00, etc.

London commodities: Cocoa (Dec) +0.00, Coffee (Dec) +0.00, Sugar (Dec) +0.00, etc.

Spot market metals (US): Gold spot +0.00, Silver spot +0.00, etc.

New York metal futures: Gold (Dec) +0.00, Silver (Dec) +0.00, etc.

London metal fixes: Gold AM fix +0.00, Silver AM fix +0.00, etc.

US commodities: Cocoa (Dec) +0.00, Coffee (Dec) +0.00, Sugar (Dec) +0.00, etc.

London commodities: Cocoa (Dec) +0.00, Coffee (Dec) +0.00, Sugar (Dec) +0.00, etc.

Spot market metals (US): Gold spot +0.00, Silver spot +0.00, etc.

New York metal futures: Gold (Dec) +0.00, Silver (Dec) +0.00, etc.

London metal fixes: Gold AM fix +0.00, Silver AM fix +0.00, etc.

Commstock Trading Ltd. (Date 14-OCT-96)



FACEOFF - Argentina's Herman Gumy returns volley in 6-3, 6-3 win over Luis Morejon at Ramat Hasharon yesterday. (Brian Heffler)

Washington 1st-round victor at Eisenberg

MALIVAI Washington proved to his fans yesterday at Ramat Hasharon why he reached the Wimbledon final this year.

Playing in the first round of the Eisenberg Israel Open, top seed Washington was clearly in control against France's *Stephane Simian*, winning 6-1, 6-4.

Washington, playing his first match since the US Open, powered seven aces, regularly breaking the 190 kph barrier as he crushed Simian's serve and volley attack in just over one hour.

Simian relied on his 1.93 meters to cover the net but wilted time and again before Washington's expertly calculated strokes.

Next to face Washington will be qualifier *Martin Sinner* who proved too much for local player *Noam Behr*.

Behr, ranked 213 against Sinner's 131, squandered a 4-2 lead in the first set against the German, losing eventually 6-4, 6-3.

"I was frustrated by my game," said a dejected Behr afterwards. "I knew I was up against a player I should beat."

Behr, who celebrated his 21st birthday this

HEATHER CHAIT

week, started off well, playing his usual attacking game, but as Sinner settled down, Behr began to lose the edge. After Behr broke Sinner's serve in the third game, Sinner returned in the eighth and tenth games to break Behr.

In the second set, Behr performed well below standard, moving listlessly and passively. All Sinner had to do was rely on Behr's unforced errors to wrap up the match.

Sinner was not enthusiastic about his game. "I missed a lot of points but Behr was very nervous and didn't take his chances."

Eyal Ran will be on court today (7 pm) against a severe challenge from second seed Albert Costa while the third local player Nir Weigreen will play tomorrow against Javier Sanchez from Spain.

In other results, Stefano Pescosolido, who won here in 1993, was a first-round casualty to Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten 6-3, 7-5 while fifth-seed Herman Gumy from Argentina enjoyed an

easy victory over Luis Adrian Morejon from Ecuador 6-3, 6-3.

Armenian Sargis Sargsian, now living in the US, ended qualifier *Justin Gimelstob's* run in the tournament, winning 6-3, 6-1.

Sargsian used his mobility to the best against the 19-year-old American who lapsed into erratic play.

Today's matches (Play starts at 2 pm)

STADIUM: Scott Draper vs. Jean-Philippe Fleurian, Galo Blanco vs. Javier Frana, Ignacio Truyol vs. Felix Mantilla, Eyal Ran vs. Albert Costa.

COURT 14: Richard Fromberg vs. Lars Jonsson, David Nainkin vs. Grant Stafford, Danici Nesor vs. Marcelo Filippini, Noam Behr and Eyal Erlich vs. A Kratzmann and Michael Tebbutt.

COURT 9: Oleg Ogorodov and Stefano Pescosolido vs. M Huning and J Ireland, M Bhupathi and K Kinneer vs. M Keil and S Leblanc, B Haygarth and G van Emburgh vs. Lior Mor and Nir Weigreen, Scott Draper and Stephane Simian vs. Jean-Philippe Fleurian and Nicolas Periera.

FA charges Bosnich over Nazi salute

LONDON (Reuter) - Aston Villa goalkeeper Mark Bosnich was charged with misconduct by the FA yesterday following his Nazi salute to Tottenham supporters during Saturday's Premier League game.

The Australian could also face criminal charges as police continued investigations into the second-half incident which incensed Tottenham fans, many of whom are Jewish.

An FA spokesman said: "Mark Bosnich has been charged with misconduct following a widely publicized incident during last Saturday's match with Tottenham. An FA disciplinary commission will consider the case in the near future."

"The FA have also had several contacts today with police and we understand their investigation into an alleged public order offense will continue. When it is completed, a report will be sent to the Crown Prosecution Service."

Bosnich has publicly apologized for his gesture, made after fans had baited him over an incident 18

months ago when he knocked Tottenham's striker at the time, German *Jaergen Klinsmann*, unconscious in a rash challenge.

In a letter sent to the British Press Association, Bosnich said the salute had been a "mere jocular acknowledgment of the crowd's banter".

"At no time did it ever cross my mind that the split-second prank at a football match would offend or upset anyone. I was astonished to be booked, let alone to raise the effect it later generated," he wrote.

"I am very sorry if I offended anybody, no offense was ever intended, only comical mimicry. I sincerely hope that this attempt at humor and the very genuine sorrow at its offense, will conclude that people would not matter. I do not comprehend that people would believe that someone with a Jewish aunt would in any way go out to deliberately offend people."

In Premier League action last night, Sunderland and Middlesbrough played to a 2-2 draw.

Cantona bemoans: My worst match for United

MANCHESTER (Reuter) - Eric Cantona had his worst ever match for Manchester United on Saturday - but his team showed its true strength by beating Liverpool with barely a single contribution from the captain.

"I'd forgotten that I could play so badly," said the Frenchman after United's 1-0 victory at Old Trafford ended Liverpool's unbeaten start to the season and dislodged them from the top of the table.

"I am very unhappy. If people say I am playing badly it is true and I am very disappointed. I did not feel fit either physically or mentally, I did not feel right. Sometimes it happens in your job too. It's when you wake up and don't feel too good then you have a bad day."

Cantona's performances since becoming United's captain have generally been subdued and he was no more than a bit-part player throughout most of Saturday's hard-fought Lancashire derby, watched by 55,128 - United's biggest crowd for 12 years.

None of his trademark flicks worked, his passing was inaccurate and his backheels went to the opposition. The King of Old Trafford looked very mortal indeed.

"It happens to footballers, from time to time," he said on the Old Trafford pitch afterwards.

"It happened to me on occasions since my first professional game when I was 17. But there are games on Wednesday (tomorrow) and next Sunday when I have to play better. My next good performance must come very quickly and I can't wait for it to come."

United need Cantona's golden touch to return as soon as possible. On Wednesday it faces Fenerbahce in Turkey in the European champions' league and next weekend faces English league leaders Newcastle United.

Manager Alex Ferguson has criticized the fixture planning which has given his side such tough matches either side of a champions' league game, but

although his team were largely outplayed by Liverpool, at least they took all three points.

Ferguson was also upset that his players did not follow his tactical instructions to try and counter Liverpool's game - but he was full of praise for David May and Norwegian Romy Johnsen for the way they defended.

Ferguson praised May's performance, saying: "He made three tackles on the edge of our box which were absolutely superb. That's an art that's probably dying in the game because defenders are protected by midfielders and delaying tactics."

"But when someone can tackle like that it sends a message to the players in front not to worry if someone runs on to him, because he'll tackle them."

People talk about the saves Schmeichel has made but those three tackles were better."

David Beckham scored United's winner with a shot that went in off the post after 23 minutes.

Wright charged

Arsenal striker Ian Wright was charged with misconduct by the FA yesterday over alleged remarks made about Sheffield Wednesday manager David Pleat.

Wright was reported in some newspapers to have called Pleat a "pervert" in the aftermath of the Arsenal-Sheffield Wednesday game at Highbury on September 16 which Arsenal won 4-1.

He has been ordered to attend an FA disciplinary commission on a date to be arranged.

Wright made the comment on September 27 and apologized three days later.

"It was just a joke. I didn't think it would come out that way," Wright said.

Trouble started when Pleat called for an inquiry after Wright was caught by TV cameras pulling the dreadlocks of Wednesday's Regi Blinker and stamping on defender Dejan Stefanovic.

The FA then wrote to Wright asking him to explain his comments, which referred to newspaper revelations nine years ago that Pleat was cautioned by police three times for curb-crawling. The publicity forced him to resign as Tottenham manager.

Robson, Souless fined

The FA said yesterday it has fined Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson and Southampton boss Graeme Souless for misconduct.

The fines follow a plea by Premier League referees for managers to observe a 30-minute "cooling off" period before confronting officials at the end of matches.

Robson was fined £1,500, severely censured and warned about his future conduct over remarks made to referee Michael Riley after the match with Nottingham Forest at the City Ground on August 24.

Souless was fined £750 and warned after remarks made to Riley after the Leicester-Southampton clash at Filbert Street on August 21.

Why baseball inspired Damn Yankees

BALTIMORE (AP) - The rest of baseball's universe isn't aligned yet, but one important piece is back in place. A decade and a half after it last appeared there, the World Series returns to The Bronx.

This is actually something worth celebrating. The game needs drama and the simple fact is, nobody in the game does drama like the Yankees.

Think of the great names and the great Series games. Most of what comes to mind has New York as the backdrop: Don Larsen's perfect game in 1956; Mickey Mantle, almost anytime; Reggie Jackson's three-homers-in-three-swings game in 1977; a half-dozen Babe Ruth games a half-century before that. Even Bill Buckner's error happened in New York, albeit across town in Queens.

It's no coincidence. New York been the best place to win, or lose, ever since baseball mattered. The Yankees have played host to 33 previous Series and kept the trophy 23 times. Not just kept it, but flaunted it. That's why the play was called *Damn Yankees*. And if attention matters - and to baseball, it should - there is still no

better place to play.

The outsized stage, the overzealous fans, the owner's inflated ego, the manager's 30-year wait to reach the Series, even the oversized glove 12½-year-old Jeff Maier wielded - the exaggerated scale of everything is what makes New York New York. The only thing opponents need bring is a toothbrush. The town can drum up controversy, celebrity, gossip, scandal - just about anything else. It makes heroes seem more heroic, villains more vile and baseball all the more memorable in the bargain.

"Remember, it's still the most famous name in sports," said Reggie Jackson, who now works for the club as a special assistant to the president. "Go anywhere outside the country, have somebody figure out you're an American and what's the first thing they call you? A Dallas Cowboy? A Facker? A Mariner?"

"No. What they call you," Jackson said, not waiting for an answer, "is a Yankee."

Jackson and his boss, George Steinbrenner, almost certainly called each other less flattering names before they got into a

scrape a short while back. But they made up, which is very much a Yankee thing, too. Forgive and forget - so long as there's a payoff for everyone down the line. Darryl Strawberry made it in New York a decade ago for the crosstown Mets, then left in shame when drink and drugs rendered his exceptional skills all but useless.

He started this season playing in the Northern League for what he used to command in meal money. And people laughed when Steinbrenner plucked Strawberry out of that Midwestern road show in July and brought him to New York to fill the Yankees' need for a left-handed power-hitter. But after hitting just one postseason home run in the 10 previous years, he hit two Saturday against the Orioles and another in Sunday's pennant-clinching win over the Orioles.

He is making real money again. And no one is laughing.

"A World Series in New York? It's one of the best experiences you could go through," Strawberry said.

Celebration reigned on every side of him in the Yankee clubhouse. Strawberry paused for a moment. "And if you win, like we

did in 1986 (with the Mets), and you're riding down those streets in a parade, man, it's something."

It's something, already, for Yankee manager Joe Torre. He had endured the longest stretch of games by any major leaguer - 4,272 as a player and manager over some 30 years - without making it to a World Series. Until now. Like everything in New York, it came at a high price.

Torre lost one brother in June, news that found him between games of a doubleheader. A second brother has spent the last 10 weeks in a New York hospital awaiting a heart transplant. The Yankees built a 12½-game lead over the Orioles in the AL East, then nearly squandered it in the closing month of the season.

Yet, when the moment of victory finally settled in, the depth of his satisfaction seemed to say it was all worth it. Maybe that sense of accomplishment is something that goes with the territory, too.

"It's definitely like no other city," said outfielder Paul O'Neill, who won a World Series with the Cincinnati Reds in 1990 before joining the Yankees. "And from everything I've heard, there's nothing like winning there, either."

Unbeaten Dallas Stars take 5th straight

CHICAGO (AP) - The Dallas Stars continued their franchise-best start with their fifth straight victory, whipping the Chicago Blackhawks 5-3 on Sunday as five different players scored goals.

Greg Adams, Benoit Hogue and Grant Marshall each scored Sunday night in a three-goal, second-period outburst and Dave Reid and Guy Carbonneau added shorthanded goals for the Stars, who remained the NHL's only unbeaten and untied team.

The Stars' five-game winning

streak is the longest from the start of a season in their 30-year history in Dallas and Minnesota. Twice previously, the Stars have begun seasons with six-game unbeaten strings (5-0-1). Chicago (2-3-1) has lost three straight games - all at home - after a 2-0-0 start.

Flames 1, Flyers 0

Trevor Kidd stopped 27 shots, several of them point-blank blasts, to lead visiting Calgary in Sunday's only other scheduled game.

The game's only goal came from Calgary's German *Titov*, who scored on a power play in the second period.

The loss was the second in a row for the Flyers, who've scored only 10 goals this season without injured captain and leading scorer, Eric Lindros.

It was also the Flyers' first home shutout since their January 13, 1996 loss to the New York Rangers.

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DEADLINES offices: Jerusalem - weekdays: 12 noon the day 4 p.m. on Thursday; Tel Aviv and Haifa - weekdays: 12 noon, 2 days before publication; for Friday and Sunday: 4 p.m. Thursday in Tel Aviv and 12 noon Thursday in Haifa.

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Washington	1	3	0	2	14 16	Toronto	1	2	0	2	10 12
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Pittsburgh	1	3	0	2	11 16	San Jose	1	3	1	3	13 23

Rabkin wins 10th Masters

JEFF Rabkin won his 10th successive Masters title when he beat Cecil Bransky 21-12 in the annual Lawn Bowls Tournament at the Ramat Gan Club.

Sportiada in Eilat

Some 6,000 sportspeople from all over the country will assemble at Eilat for the 16th Annual Sportiada which begins tomorrow.

Open Golf Tourney

The Israeli Open Golf Tournament will take place at Caesarea Golf Club from today through Friday. The tournament will be played over 72 holes.

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הלוא מן האוכל

CRITIC'S CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

MUSIC Nova, Israel's most enduring and exciting contemporary music ensemble opens its 11th season with a vocal concert featuring Arvo Part's Berlin Requiem and the world premiere of Yosef Bradnashvili's new choral work.



Percussionist Chen Zimbalista joins the Bat-Dor Dance Company in Tel Aviv.

Tenor Yevgeny Shapovalov performs at 8:30 tomorrow at Tel Aviv's Einav Center in a program of popular Neapolitan songs like "O Sole Mio" and "Torna a Sorrento," and arias like "La donna e mobile" from Verdi's Rigoletto.

The Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music and Dance celebrates the beginning of the new academic year with a program bringing together faculty members. Cellist Shmuel Magen, pianist Alan Sternfeld, soprano Robin Weisel Capsuto, jazz virtuoso Slava Ganelin, and dancers Amir Kolban and Galit Hamami perform at 8:30 tomorrow at the academy on the Givat Ram campus of the Hebrew University.

THEATER

HELEN KAYE

TEL AVIV University presents Aeschylus' The Oresteia, the final play of the Oresteia in which the ghost of Clytemnestra whips up the goddesses of vengeance against her patricidal son. The show, directed by Ruth Kanner, is in room 207 of Mexico Hall nightly through October 19 at 8:30.

Jean Genet is the playwright and the actors are the students at the Ramat Gan Beit Zvi drama school. The plays are The Maids - in which two maids take turns aping their absent mistress with dire results - and Deathwatch about the last night of a condemned man. The plays run alternate nights but with the same set for both on the main stage through October 30 and 31, respectively. Show time is 8:30 p.m., Fridays at 1. (Hebrew)

Establishment Fringe is what's happening at Tel Aviv's ZOA House and Tzavta. The season opens tonight and if you missed Acre, a lot of what was shown there will probably turn up at the Fringe Center. Tonight there's a show from Jerusalem's Habama Theater. The House Is Gonna Be Empty Again about a Holocaust survivor and

her daughter trying to escape the shadow of the past. At Tzavta at 8:30 p.m. For information, call (03) 695-9341.

Playwright Edna Mazia's beautifully crafted plays force us to look at situations and events we'd rather avoid. A Family Story follows the history of a family from 1935 Heidelberg to the mid-1970s in Israel. Sandra Sadeh stars and Omri Nitzan has deftly directed. On the Cameri main stage at 8:30 p.m. (Hebrew with simultaneous translation into English)

DANCE

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

THE Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company presents Rami Be'er's most recent opus, When Most I Wink, a captivating and ingenious look at human behavior and emotions tantalizingly performed. Tonight at the North Theater in Kiryat Haim.

The Bat-Dor Dance Company performs Domy Reiter-Soffer's Echoes at 8:30 tonight at its Tel Aviv theater. Percussionist extraordinaire Chen Zimbalista joins the company to perform his own music, as well as selections by Benny Nagari and Amos Elkana.

TELEVISION

CHANNEL 1

6:31 News in Arabic 6:45 Exercise Hour 7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Moses and Jewish Tradition 8:30 Family Connectors 9:00 Literature 9:30 Health 9:45 Programs for young children 10:00 Our Friends 10:05 Stories in Arabic 10:15 Welcome to France 10:30 Mathematics 10:40 Stories of the World 11:15 Scientists 11:30 Science and Technology 12:00 Geography 12:30 Everything's Open 13:00 The Olympic Games 14:00 Train 14:25 Iggy Cat and Tommy 14:45 Gays, Gal and Gai 15:00 Zombit

CHANNEL 1

15:30 Zap to 1 15:32 Video Force 15:50 The Adventures of Dodo 16:00 Yaldias 16:30 The Game from Down Under 16:50 The Adventures of Dodo 16:59 A New Evening 17:34 Liberty Street 18:00 Droopy 18:10 Musical Notes 18:15 News in English ARABIC PROGRAMS 18:30 Apropo 19:00 News in Arabic HEBREW PROGRAMS 19:30 A Strong Card - feats of magic with Yehoshua 20:00 News in Hebrew 20:05 News in Hebrew 20:15 News in Hebrew 20:20 News in Hebrew 20:25 News in Hebrew 20:30 News in Hebrew 20:35 News in Hebrew 20:40 News in Hebrew 20:45 News in Hebrew 20:50 News in Hebrew 20:55 News in Hebrew 21:00 News in Hebrew 21:05 News in Hebrew 21:10 News in Hebrew 21:15 News in Hebrew 21:20 News in Hebrew 21:25 News in Hebrew 21:30 News in Hebrew 21:35 News in Hebrew 21:40 News in Hebrew 21:45 News in Hebrew 21:50 News in Hebrew 21:55 News in Hebrew 22:00 News in Hebrew 22:05 News in Hebrew 22:10 News in Hebrew 22:15 News in Hebrew 22:20 News in Hebrew 22:25 News in Hebrew 22:30 News in Hebrew 22:35 News in Hebrew 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NY high school students lead rally for Israeli MIAs

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

MORE than 1,000 New Yorkers — most of them high school students — rallied near the United Nations yesterday to call for the return of Israeli MIAs.

Although the rally was officially sponsored by a broad section of the American Jewish community, its success was heavily dependent on the Orthodox, Yeshivot and day schools in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Long Island and New Jersey brought hundreds of students to the UN plaza in two dozen buses.

Police estimated that 1,200 were at the rally, which was held on the 10th anniversary of Ron Arad's disappearance.

Standing across the street from the UN on an unseasonably warm, pleasant day, the mothers of Arad and Zachary Baumeil made passionate appeals for information about their sons.

Another mother, the American envoy to the UN, Madeleine Albright, sent a statement expressing "the continuing determination of [the US] government to pursue every lead to ascertain the fate of Ron Arad, Zachary Baumeil, Yehuda Katz, and Zvi Feldman."

"As a mother and a grandmother, I can only begin to understand the anguish and heartache that the families of these MIAs have had to bear for these 10 years,"

Albright's statement said. "Let me recommit to you that we will not rest with our efforts until we know of their fate."

Miriam Baumeil told the crowd that her son, who has been missing since 1982, is also an American citizen. "Even while serving in the Israeli army, he was called on to register for the US draft," and he did not hesitate, she told the crowd.

Yitzhak Rabin, both as defense minister and prime minister, had hoped that Zachary's US citizenship might be useful in finding information about the MIAs, she said. However, Baumeil said after the rally, the family was still waiting for more action from the US.

"They give us a lot of lip service," she said, adding that the family has not heard from the White House since the family gave first lady Hillary Clinton a silver copy of Baumeil's dog tag.

Batya Arad pleaded for the international community to work for her son's release, and asked the captives to let her son send a letter to his family.

Yesterday was a federal holiday in the US and there was no one available to answer questions about the current status of the American inquiry into Baumeil's fate.



Angry workers at Kitan's Beit She'an factory demonstrate outside the Knesset yesterday.

(Brian Handler)

Knesset labor panel calls on Kitan to keep Beit She'an plant open

Committee demands solutions to town's employment problems

WHILE factory workers protested outside the building, the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee yesterday called on Kitan to close its textile factory in Beit She'an. Kitan plans to move the finishing plant's operations to its Dimona plant.

At the end of the meeting, the committee issued a statement calling on the company to keep the plant open; suggesting committee chairman Maxim Levy (Gesher) meet with the prime minister and relevant cabinet members to try to prevent the closure; and demanding an interministerial committee immediately convene to solve Beit She'an's problems.

Levy told the committee he feared that most of the 200 workers who would be fired would not find other jobs. He blamed the previous government for not planning new factories in development towns years ago, when the crisis in the textile industry became apparent.

"Private factories arguably want to be profitable, but it is unacceptable that they'll just let people go into unemployment, without a second thought," Levy said. He rejected the factory owners' suggestion that some of the workers relocate to Dimona, saying families could not

be uprooted so easily and the distance is too great to commute.

According to Alex Paran, the director of the employment service, there are 509 job-seekers in Beit She'an, about 5.6 percent of the workforce.

"Two hundred more job-hunters will be thrust out in the market, half of them above age 45, which will raise the percentage considerably and turn the town into a center of unemployment," Paran said. He noted that the Tourism Ministry and National Antiquities Authority also planned to reduce the numbers of workers they employed in the town in the coming year.

Beit She'an Local Council head Shlomo Ben-Lulu said the unemployment problem is then exacerbated by the fact that factories that close stop paying municipal taxes. He said the town would collapse without the Kitan plant.

Kitan's director-general Ezra Gonen said the company's main problems are the erosion of the dollar, which affects the profitability of exports; the cancellation of a discount on

municipal taxes, which amounts to NIS 2 million; the transfer of orders by the Defense Ministry to the US; the outlays required by stricter environmental regulations; and the drop in the availability of grants.

MK Shaul Amor (Likud) told Gonen the government had decided to reduce the grants but the Knesset had not approved the decision and the company should continue to operate on the assumption it would not pass.

The representative of the Defense Ministry, which was a major client of the plant, explained that a \$6 million order had to be transferred to the US because the defense budget is obliged by aid agreements to spend a certain sum in the US. There was also a decision to start making the uniforms out of Dacron, which is not produced here.

The Knesset Labor faction also discussed the Kitan closure yesterday, with party chairman Shimon Peres calling the situation "serious." The faction decided to establish a team of three MKs — Rafi Eini, Elie Goldschmidt and former finance minister Avraham Shohat — to come up with possible legislative solutions to the problems of the textile industry.

WEATHER

Jerusalem 19-21
Tel Aviv 19-26
Haifa 19-26
Beersheba 14-26
Ashdod 16-27
Samarita 15-21
Tiberias 17-23
Dead Sea 20-32
Eilat 20-32

Forecast: Partly cloudy.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	
American	14	22	clear
Berlin	10	17	clear
Buenos Aires	14	22	partly
Caracas	18	27	clear
Chicago	12	20	clear
Copenhagen	10	15	cloudy
Frankfurt	10	15	cloudy
Geneva	10	15	cloudy
Helsinki	10	15	cloudy
Hong Kong	25	30	cloudy
Jakarta	25	30	cloudy
London	10	15	cloudy
Los Angeles	14	22	partly
Madrid	14	22	clear
Moscow	10	15	cloudy
Munich	10	15	cloudy
New York	15	22	clear
Paris	11	18	cloudy
Rome	14	22	clear
Stockholm	10	15	cloudy
Sydney	12	20	clear
Tel Aviv	19	26	partly
Toronto	10	15	cloudy
Zurich	10	15	cloudy

Aflallo charged with conspiring to murder wife

RAINE MARCUS

HAIM Aflallo, a wealthy insurance broker from Herzliya Pituah, was charged in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday with conspiring to murder his estranged wife.

According to the charge sheet, Aflallo asked Natan Aharoni to introduce him to an assassin willing to murder his estranged wife, who Aflallo believed wanted too much money as part of the couple's divorce settlement. Aharoni set up a meeting with a police agent, whose name is banned from publication, and who agreed to carry out the assassination for NIS 100,000.

Aharoni is currently in custody. He was also approached by

Reuven Breiner and Yitzhak Taub, residents of Rishpon, who wanted to injure or kill Aharoni Ginzberg, because the latter objected repeatedly to irregularities in Rishpon and petitioned the courts on the issue.

Aharoni introduced Breiner and Taub to the same "assassin," who agreed to carry out the plan. In both cases, the agent recorded conversations and gave them to police.

Breiner and Taub were also indicted yesterday.

The prosecution is expected to request the remand of Aflallo, Breiner and Taub until the end of legal proceedings against them.

Winning cards

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning numbers were the king of spades, the ten of hearts, the king of diamonds and the jack of clubs.

Canadian Jewish groups risk charitable status by aiding settlements

OTTAWA (AP) — Groups that donate money to Jewish settlements in Judea/Samaria and the Gaza Strip are in danger of having their charitable status revoked by Canada's tax department.

Revenue Canada is investigating some groups that send money to the settlements, Carl Juneau, acting director of the department's charities division, said over the weekend.

Individuals can send money to organizations in the territories but registered charities cannot because "providing infrastructure" for the settlements is contrary to the government's foreign policy, said Juneau.

"The issue here is whether an organization should be subsidized by the tax system to send funds to promote something that's counter to government policy," Juneau confirmed that one Toronto group had its charitable status revoked this year and another was refused registration last year because it intended to donate to settlement organizations.

"Our reaction [to the application] was that the organization ought to abide by Canadian government foreign policy."

A "couple" of other applications are outstanding, said Juneau, but he would not give details.

Ottawa tax lawyer Arthur Drache said he has represented groups that had their status revoked and others that were refused charitable status because they planned to donate to organizations in the settlements.

Drache, who specializes in charities, says the Canadian government considers parts of Jerusalem's Old City within the settlements. That's because Canada bases its policy on Jerusalem's pre-1967 borders.

Bill to set up center in memory of Rabin passes first reading

LIAT COLLINS

THE Knesset unanimously passed first reading of a bill last night which calls for the establishment of a center in memory of assassinated prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Although dozens of MKs addressed the plenum, only 11 were present for the vote itself.

The bill was initiated by the government, but several opposition MKs attacked the Right, saying they had created the atmosphere of incitement in which the assassination could take place.

MK Ephraim Oshaya called the

bill a "fig leaf to cover the nakedness of the government."

MK Alex Lubotsky (Third Way) said he supported the idea of commemorating Rabin by declaring the anniversary of his death a day dedicated to teaching about democracy, but he absented himself from the vote on establishing the center saying there were better ways to perpetuate Rabin's memory. The Third Way has proposed establishing a university in Rabin's name in the

Galilee.

Lubotsky said he preferred to absent himself from the vote rather than stop it passing unanimously, but he criticized the atmosphere in which anyone who speaks out against an idea to commemorate Rabin was immediately hounded by the Left.

The proposed center would include an archives, memorial site, and educational institute. It would be a corporation run by a board of 27 people chosen by either the prime minister or a minister he appoints.

Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation grandfather clause extended

EVELYN GORDON

THE grandfather clause in the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation will be extended for another two years, according to a bill approved by the Knesset in first reading yesterday.

The clause states that pre-existing laws will retain their validity until a certain date. It was originally meant to give the government time to rewrite such laws so that they would conform to the basic law, as having large numbers

of laws become invalid at one fell swoop would create a legal vacuum and economic chaos. However, the previous government failed to make any progress, so the grace period has been periodically extended.

The current government originally wanted to extend the grace period indefinitely, both to make its life easier and to satisfy the religious parties. However, Yisrael

Ba'aliya said it would not support an indefinite extension — largely because the sale of pork is a big issue in many Russian communities, and the grandfather clause enables municipalities to ban this.

Since the party's support is essential — any amendment to a basic law must pass by an absolute majority of 61 votes — the government promised the bill would be changed in committee to a two-year extension.

The bill ultimately passed by a vote of 68-2, with one abstention.

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Jerusalem, 5 Ya'akov Meir St., Gonda, Tel. 02-5383853 Nativim, 15 Roman St., Tel. 09-616152
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